MAKE ME
INSIDE!

AND
ME TOO!

100 DAYS OF
FAT QUARTER MAKES

Special Edition by

SEW

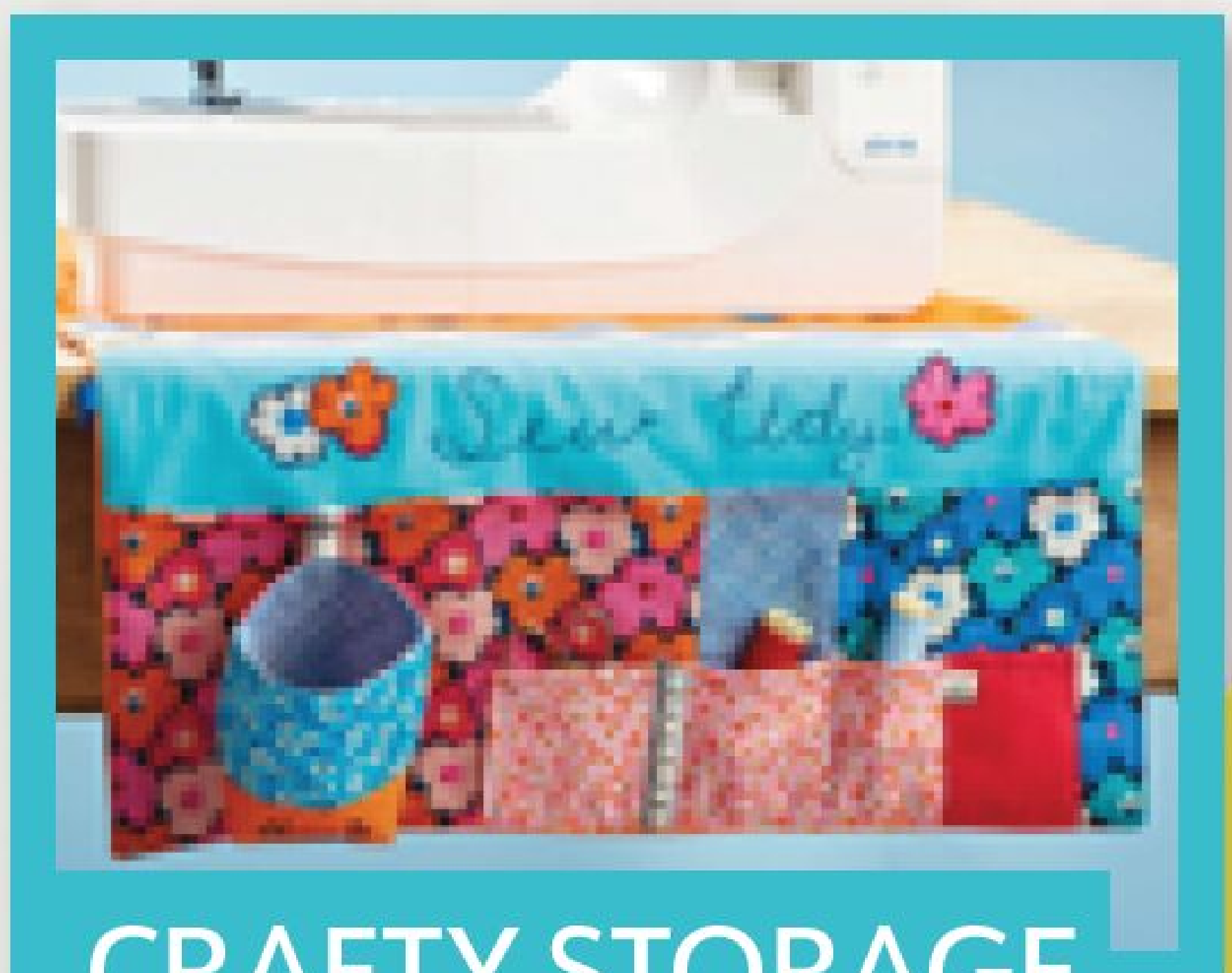
EASY
PATCHWORK
PATTERNS

SPEEDY
GIFT IDEAS

LOW-COST
HOME DÉCOR

100+ GORGEOUS SEWING PROJECTS

To use up your fabric stash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SOLUTIONS

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& BIG IDEAS

TOYS & DOLLS GALORE

SWEET DESIGNS FOR BABY

Issue 29 | UK £9.99

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WELCOME...

If your craft space is anything like ours, you'll already have impulse-purchased a bundle (or twenty) of pretty fat quarters that are ready and waiting for the perfect project. And who can blame us, after all **fat quarters are hard to resist** – they offer great value, gorgeous prints and effortless coordination. So now's the time to put that fabric stash to good use with our beautiful collection of **quick and easy sewing projects**, and with more than 100 patterns to choose from, you might just have the perfect excuse to treat yourself to some more!

There really is no end to the possibilities with fat quarters; we have lots of **fun children's toys** and new baby gifts to choose from, stylish **home decoration and storage** projects that will come in handy for all your crafting needs, as well as plenty of **chic fashion accessories** including hats, scarves and bags. We've also included some **patchwork makes** that are ideal for creating bigger projects from small offcuts as well as several **mini projects that are perfect for using up scraps**. Happy stitching!

Made with love and great at hugs!

MEET THE TEAM

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NOTE: These projects assume fat quarters with UK sizing of 50cm x 55cm; standard fat quarter dimensions elsewhere can be a few centimetres less. This won't affect the majority of the projects but is worth bearing in mind.

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DESIGNER **LOUISE NICHOLS**

Sewing bees

This happy twosome are the perfect plush companions to sew for your little ones

KIT LIST

- Cotton, coordinating prints
- Lightweight iron-on interfacing
- Medium-weight sew-in interfacing
- Black felt
- Toy stuffing
- Wadding
- Embroidery thread, black
- Air-erasable pen
- Fabric glue

Height 20cm x 34cm

NB: use 5mm seam allowance, unless otherwise stated

1 Download, print and cut out the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Snip out the body and head sections in coordinating prints. Trim four antennae from black felt and two from medium-weight interfacing. Cut two wings from fabric and one from wadding.

2 Pin and machine stitch the body sections together, beginning with the head. Create two bodies. Press the seams open. Decide which body piece will be the front and cut a small piece of lightweight interfacing to fit behind the face. Iron onto the wrong side of the face.

3 With the template as a guide, use an air-erasable pen to mark the positioning of facial features. With black embroidery thread, embroider the face. Create two French knots for the eyes with the thread at double thickness, and wrapping it around the needle twice. Use back stitch with a single thread to embroider the mouth. Dab a small amount of fabric glue onto the back of one antennae and lay the interfacing on top. Layer another felt antennae on top with glue to secure. Oversew the edges using black sewing thread.

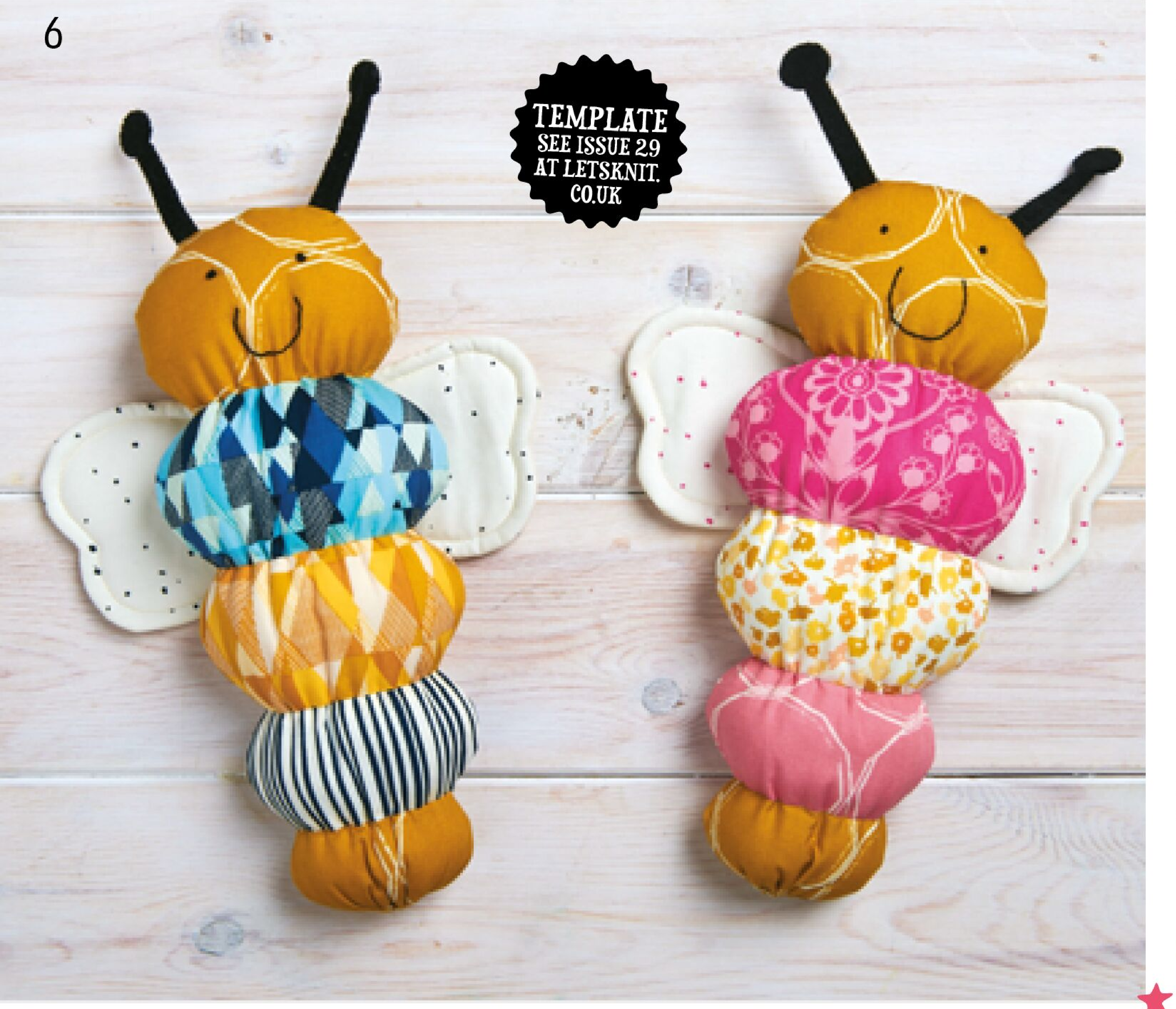
4 Pin the antennae in position, facing inwards, using the template as a guide if necessary. Pin the front and back body pieces together. Machine stitch around the edge, leaving the bottom open for turning through. Snip and trim the corners. Turn through and press.

5 Stuff the bee until it's reasonably firm. Oversew the bottom seam to close. Sew a few running stitches, pulling to gather up the bottom. Tie a couple of knots in your thread to ensure it's secure.

6 To gather the body sections, double thread your needle with coordinating thread. Create a running stitch along the seam, starting at one side seam. Once you have stitched all the way around the body, pull the thread to gather. Tie a couple of knots to secure. Repeat for each body section.

7 Layer the wing pieces together, with the wadding on the bottom, and both fabric pieces on top with right sides together, and pin. Machine around the edge leaving a gap along the top for turning through. Snip and trim the seams, turn through and press. Oversew the gap to close.

8 Machine stitch around the wings 7mm from the edge. Create a line of stitching down the centre. Position the wings, onto the bee and hand sew in place down the centre stitch line. Use a small amount of fabric glue to make the wings extra secure.



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

DREAM
colours

GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Reading cushion

This nifty make has a useful pocket that is the perfect size for your patterns or magazines

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, fat quarters, printed and plain ★ Felt: apricot, lilac ★ Cushion pad, 42cm square ★ Embroidery thread: pink, dark teal, orange, grey, purple, green ★ Bias tape, pink ★ Button, large ★ Elastic cord, white, 18cm ★ Medium weight, iron-on interfacing ★ Washi tape

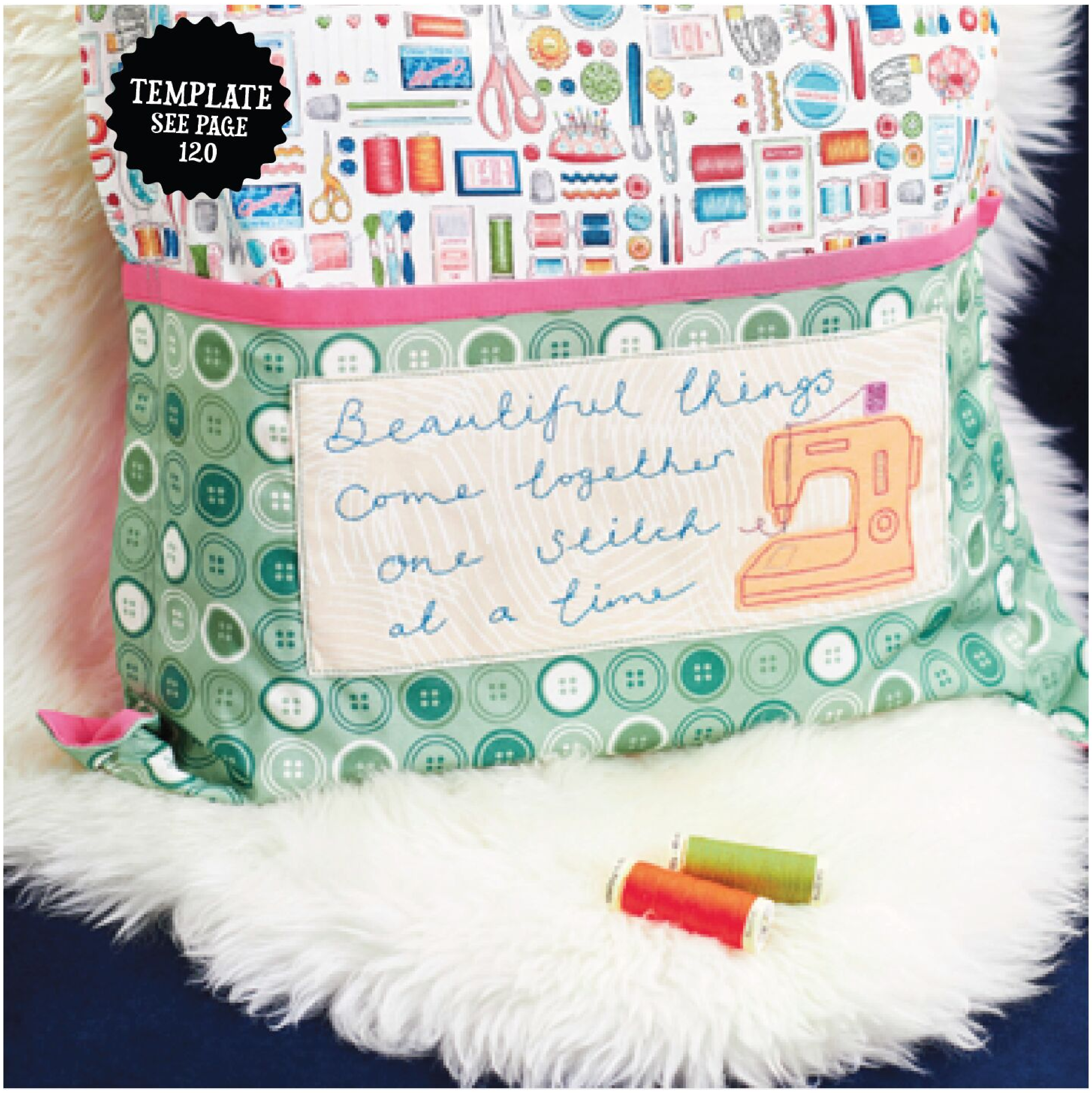
1 Trace the templates from our pattern pages. Cut green button print, 27cm x 47cm. Using pink thread, stitch a length of pink bias tape across the long top edge, then iron on the reverse. Snip flesh fabric, 11cm x 26cm. Back it with medium weight iron-on interfacing. Trace the words from the template onto white tissue paper and secure it with washi tape. Using dark teal thread, sew over the words. Tear the paper away, then stitch over the words again. Iron on the reverse.

2 Cut out the sewing machine from the template provided, then cut out a slightly larger rectangle of apricot felt. Use washi tape to hold the template in place to the right of the writing, then secure the piece of felt underneath. Use orange thread to sew the outline and details. Trim away the excess felt close to the stitching. Add further details to the needle and dials using grey thread. Snip a small piece of lilac felt, place it as the bobbin on top of the machine, then use purple thread to add detail across the bobbin and down through the needle.

3 Place the panel centrally on the green button fabric, 3cm down from the top edge of the pink bias binding. Using green thread, stitch around it twice just in from the raw edge. Iron on the reverse. Cut sewing notion print, 47cm square and lay right side up. Lay the button section right side up across the bottom half so the side and bottom edges align. Sew a 5mm seam down both sides and across the bottom.

4 For the cushion back, cut a piece of green button print fabric, 9cm x 47cm. Snip a second piece, 25cm x 47cm. Pin right sides together along the 47cm width. Insert a loop of elastic cord in the middle so the raw ends stick out. Stitch a 1cm seam across, fold the fabric over, then iron and topstitch close to the fold. Iron the wall hanging, but do not iron the elastic. Cut pink fabric, 38cm x 47cm. Fold one raw 47cm edge over twice by 5mm. Sew the seam then iron.

5 Lay the sewing notion fabric square right side up, lay the green button section across the top of the square right sides together, then lay the pink section across the bottom of the square right sides together. Stitch a 1cm seam all the way around the cushion. Trim excess fabric from the corners and turn right side out. Iron the fabric, then hand sew the button in place. Measure the size of the cover and stitch an equal border all the way around to make the pad fit.



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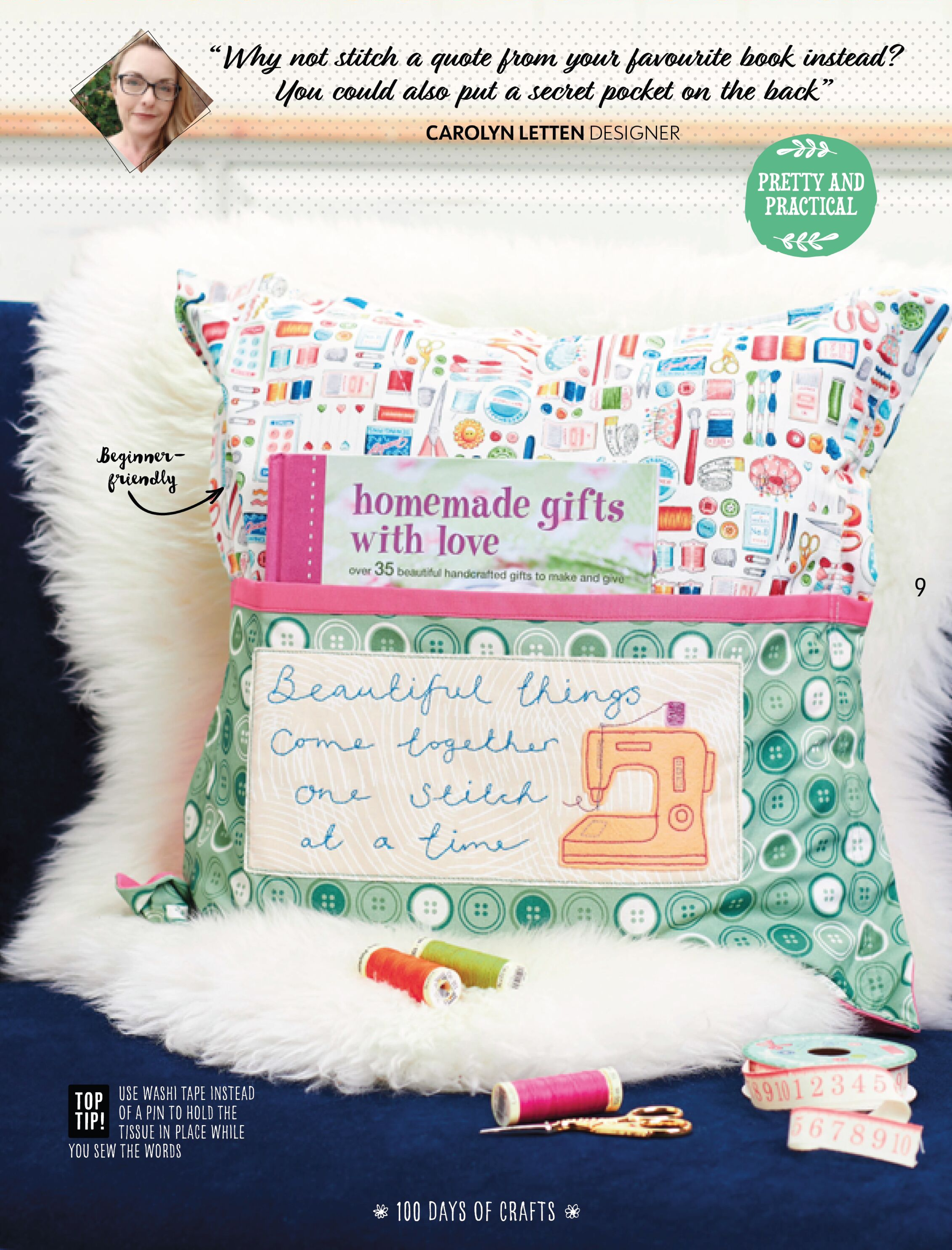

homemade gifts with love
over 35 beautiful handcrafted gifts to make and give
Beautiful things come together one stitch at a time

"Why not stitch a quote from your favourite book instead? You could also put a secret pocket on the back"

CAROLYN LETTEN DESIGNER

PRETTY AND PRACTICAL

Beginner-friendly

TOP TIP! USE WASHI TAPE INSTEAD OF A PIN TO HOLD THE TISSUE IN PLACE WHILE YOU SEW THE WORDS

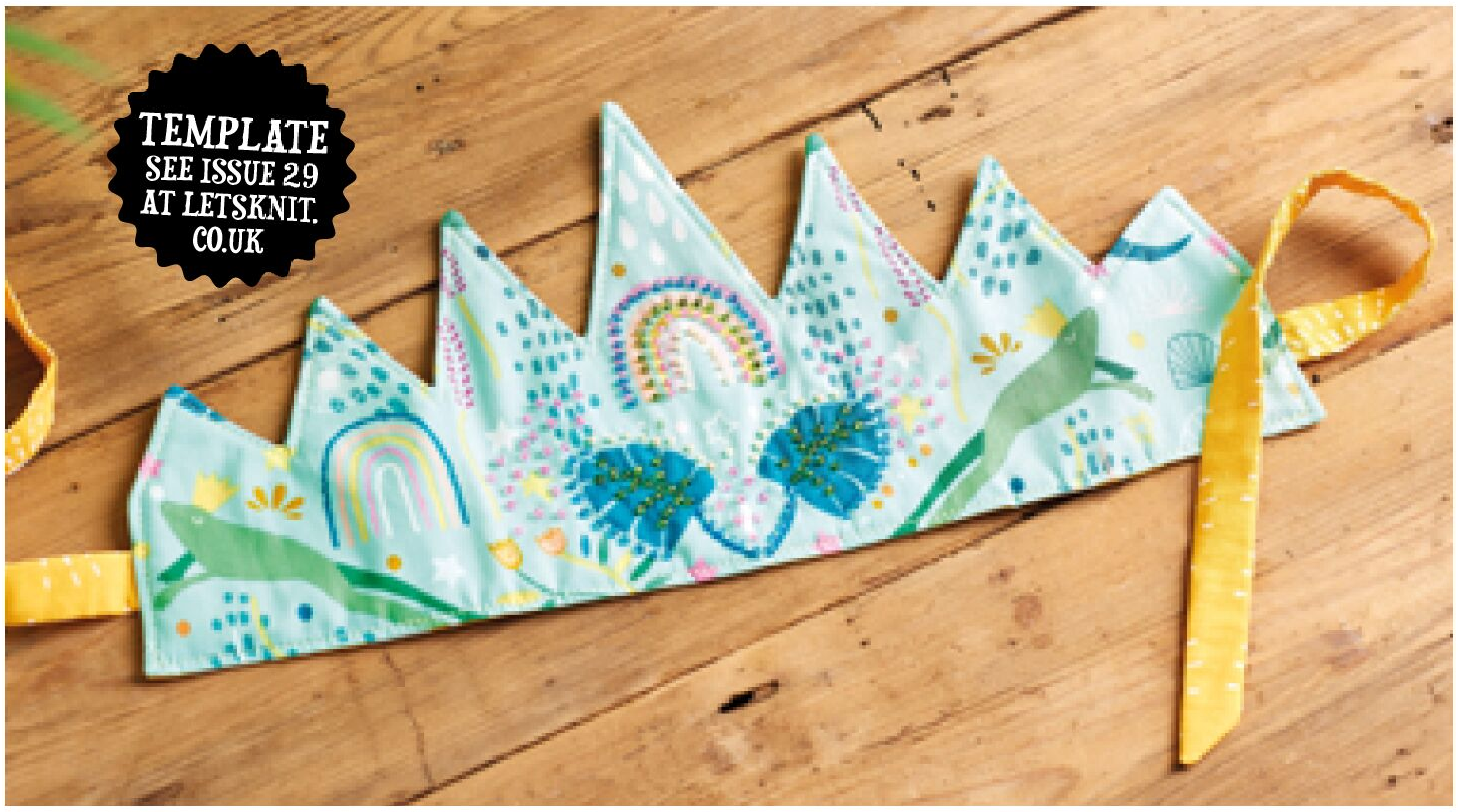
DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Frog Prince

Spread a little hoppiness by bringing a fairytale to life with this frog and child-size crown

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton: plain, assorted prints; faux leather, gold ★ Fibre filling ★ Lightweight quilt wadding ★ Buttons, 20mm, four ★ Safety eyes, 12mm, two ★ Embroidery thread ★ Flat-backed pearls ★ Seed beads


TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

CHILD'S CROWN

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut two strips of fabric, 4cm x 30cm. Fold in half lengthways right sides together, then stitch down the edge and across one end at a 45° angle. Turn out and press to make two tying straps.

2 Trace around the template onto two rectangles of right sides together fabric, 16cm x 33cm. Pin onto medium-weight quilt wadding. Slip the straps inside the right sides together fabrics at each end, matching up the raw edges. Use the traced line as a stitching guide and sew around the shape, leaving a small gap in the bottom edge.

3 Trim the fabric around the shape to leave a 5mm seam allowance, then clip the corners and angles for crisp points. Turn the crown out through the turning gap using a knitting needle to push the points out fully. Fold in the edges of the turning gap, then press well. Topstitch around the shape to neaten and close up the gap.

4 Select several colours of seed bead to complement the colours of the fabric and embellish the design with them, sewing them in place with small stitches. Avoid pulling the thread too tightly between each stitch as this will pucker the fabric.

FROG PRINCE

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Trace out the pattern pieces onto right sides together fabric and cut out, adding a 5mm seam allowance. For tricky parts such as the hands and feet, leave excess fabric around the drawn lines for ease of manipulation. Stitch the darts in the body pieces before placing right sides together, matching up the darts, and sewing around the edges leaving the neck hole open. Fold in 5mm around the neck and tack before turning out and stuffing firmly.

2 Pair up arms right sides together and use the drawn lines as a guide to stitch around them, leaving a 4cm gap in the upper back edge of each piece. Trim away the excess fabric from around the fingers, clip curves and angles before turning out and stuffing firmly. Fold in the edges of the turning gap and slip-stitch closed.

3 Pair up the legs right sides together and sew from the point of the toe to the heel, leaving the bottom of the foot open. Flatten the bottom of the foot to create three toes and stitch the flat foot piece to this, leaving a small gap towards the heel. Turn out and stuff firmly before folding in the edges of the gap and slip-stitching closed.

4 Sew the darts in the head piece and stitch right sides together, leaving a 5cm gap in the centre of the bottom. Turn in the raw edge of the gap and tack before turning out and stuffing firmly. Pair up the hemmed gaps of head and body, then slip-stitch together, adding extra stuffing to prevent a wobbly head before closing up the seam completely. Use 20mm buttons to attach the limbs with button joints, running a double length of strong thread from button to button through the limbs and body several times before fastening underneath the limb.

5 Pair up and sew the eye pieces right sides together, leaving the bottom flat edge open. Fit safety eyes to the centre of each piece before turning out and tucking in the raw edge. Stuff carefully and oversew the bottom with small stitches. Pin the eyes to the head and secure with small stitches along the bottom edge. Sew from the back centre of each eye into the head several times to keep the eyes from flopping down.

6 Use two strands of embroidery thread to sew a wide smiling mouth across the face of the frog. Cut a crown shape from metallic faux leather or sewable paper and glue into a ring. Attach the crown to the top of the head with several stitches at each side and decorate with the pearls.

TOP TIP! CUT THE INITIAL RECTANGLES CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THE MAIN PART OF THE PATTERN SITS IN THE CENTRE OF THE CROWN

GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

DESIGNER **SOPHIA PALMER**

New baby set

Welcome a newborn with this elephant nursery set in neutral colours

KIT LIST

- Fabric, cotton: plain blue, plain yellow, neutral print, spotty, calico
- Felt, white
- Iron-on interfacing, medium
- Adhesive web
- Ribbon, yellow, 6mm
- Embroidery thread, black
- Blank card
- Wooden dowel
- Ribbon, yellow, 6mm
- Craft knife and cutting mat

NB: use 10mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

GIFT TAG

1 Draw the smaller elephant templates on adhesive web and cut out loosely. Iron to the back of cotton fabrics, then trim carefully. Peel off the backing paper and place on a larger piece of white felt. Insert a folded length of ribbon at the top, between the felt and the cotton, then press with an iron.

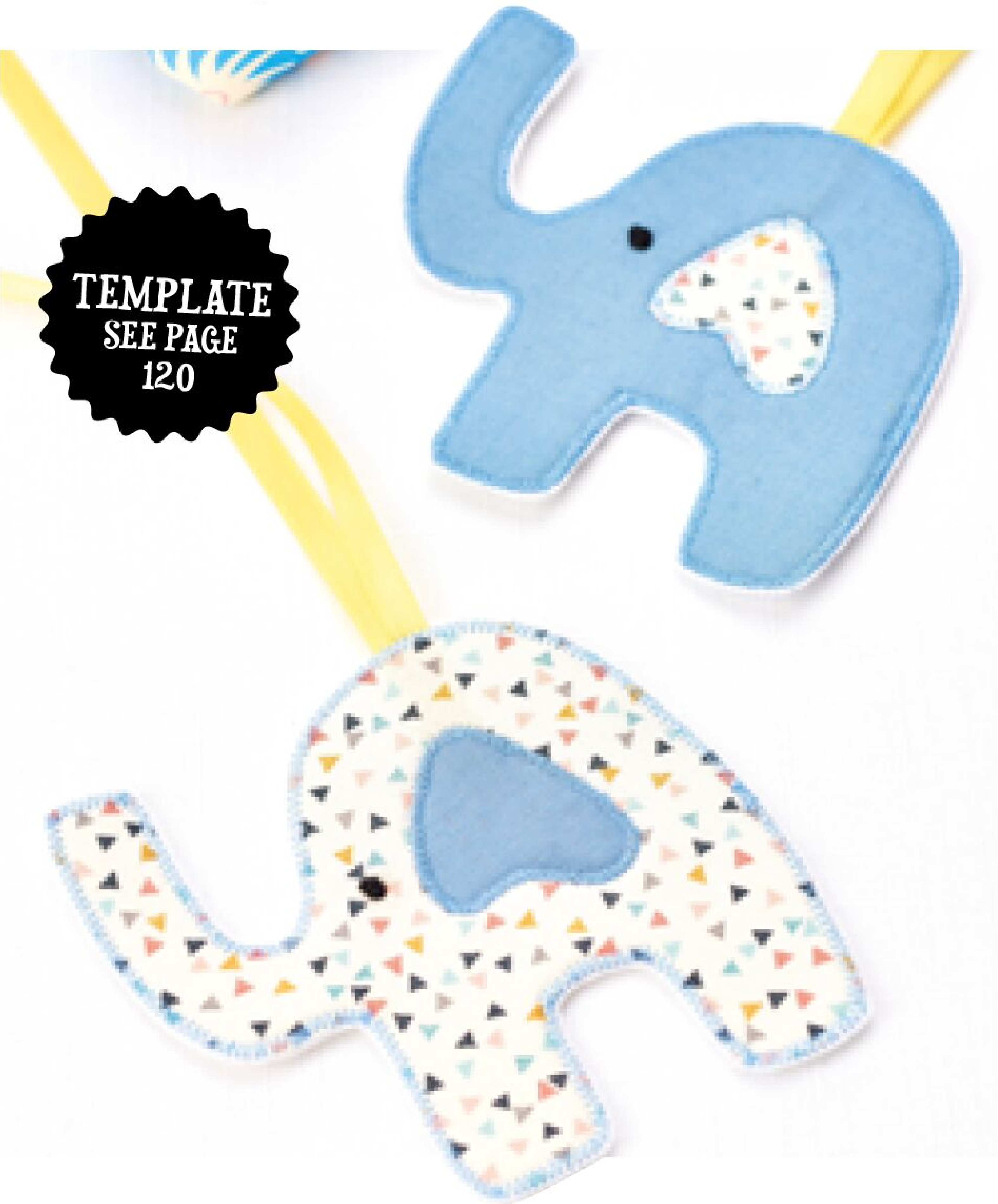
2 Zig-zag stitch the pieces together with matching thread, then trim the edge carefully to match the shape of the elephant, making sure not to cut the ribbon. Using black embroidery thread, stitch a French knot for the eye and tie it off on the back.

GREETING CARD

1 Draw around a blank card onto iron-on interfacing, creating a template for the front. Iron this onto the back of yellow cotton fabric, then trim the edges to the size you want. Transfer the smaller elephant templates on adhesive web and cut them out loosely. Iron on the back of your chosen fabrics and trim neatly.

2 Peel off the backing paper and iron on the fabric front, starting with the body piece, then placing the ear on top. Zig-zag stitch the pieces with matching thread. Work a black French knot for the eye.

3 Sew the whole piece to the front of the card around the edge of the fabric piece. If the greeting doesn't stand up, stick a piece of card inside to hide the stitches and provide stability. Trim any excess with a craft knife.



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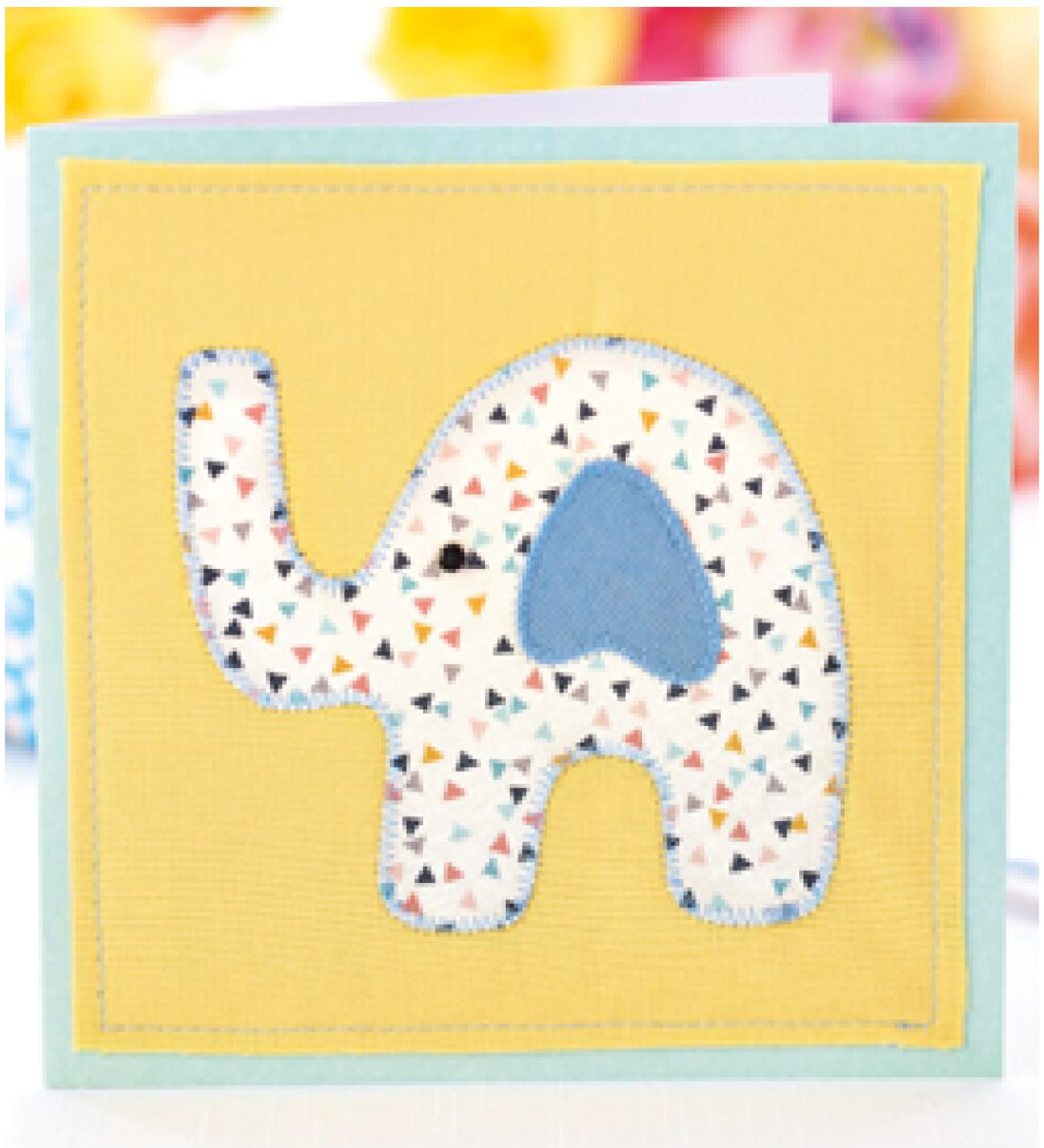


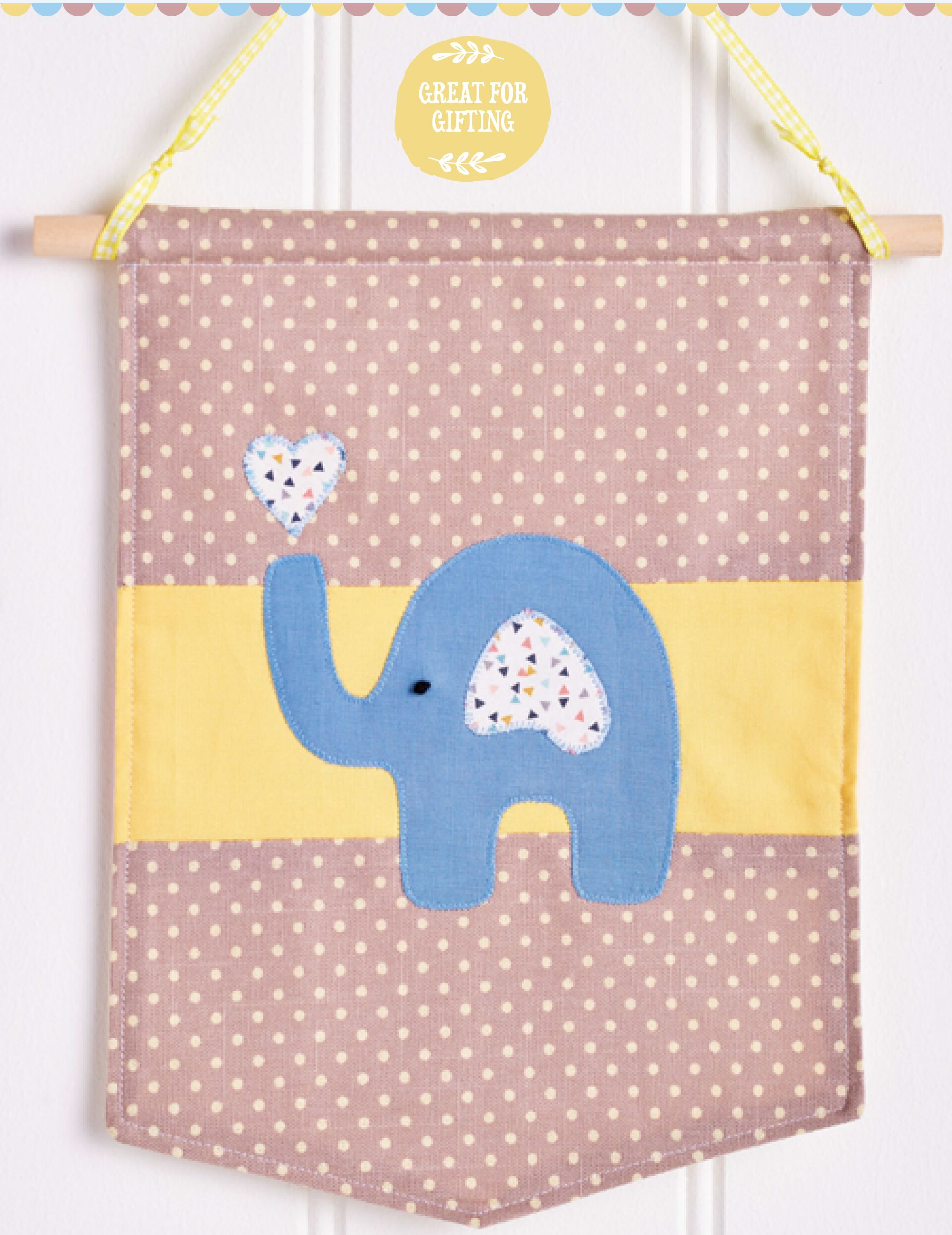
WALLHANGING

1 Cut two pieces of spotty fabric, 13cm x 22cm, and one yellow panel, 9cm x 22cm. Sew the yellow fabric and a spotty piece, right sides together, along one long edge. Repeat with the second spotty piece, then press all seams open. Mark 3cm up from the bottom on both side edges, plus the centre point at the bottom. Draw a line to each marker, creating a point in the base, and cut.

2 Draw the larger elephant and heart shapes on adhesive web, iron to the back of fabrics, then fix in the centre of the main piece. Zig-zag stitch in place, then embroider the eye as before.

3 Interface a larger piece of plain cotton. Pin the finished front, right sides together, on top and sew along the top straight edge. Leave a gap, 5cm down from the first line. Stitch from this point, 5mm from the edge, around the remaining edges, leaving a 5cm gap in one long edge and another opposite for the dowel channel.

GREAT FOR GIFTING



4 Trim all seam allowances and corners, turn right sides out and press flat. Topstitch the channel along the top edge, checking that the dowel fits with around 3cm spare each side. Topstitch the remaining edges, insert the dowel and attach a length of ribbon for hanging.

TOP TIP! IF YOU'RE NOT CONFIDENT WITH ZIG-ZAG APPLIQUÉ, YOU CAN USE A STRAIGHT STITCH INSTEAD

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

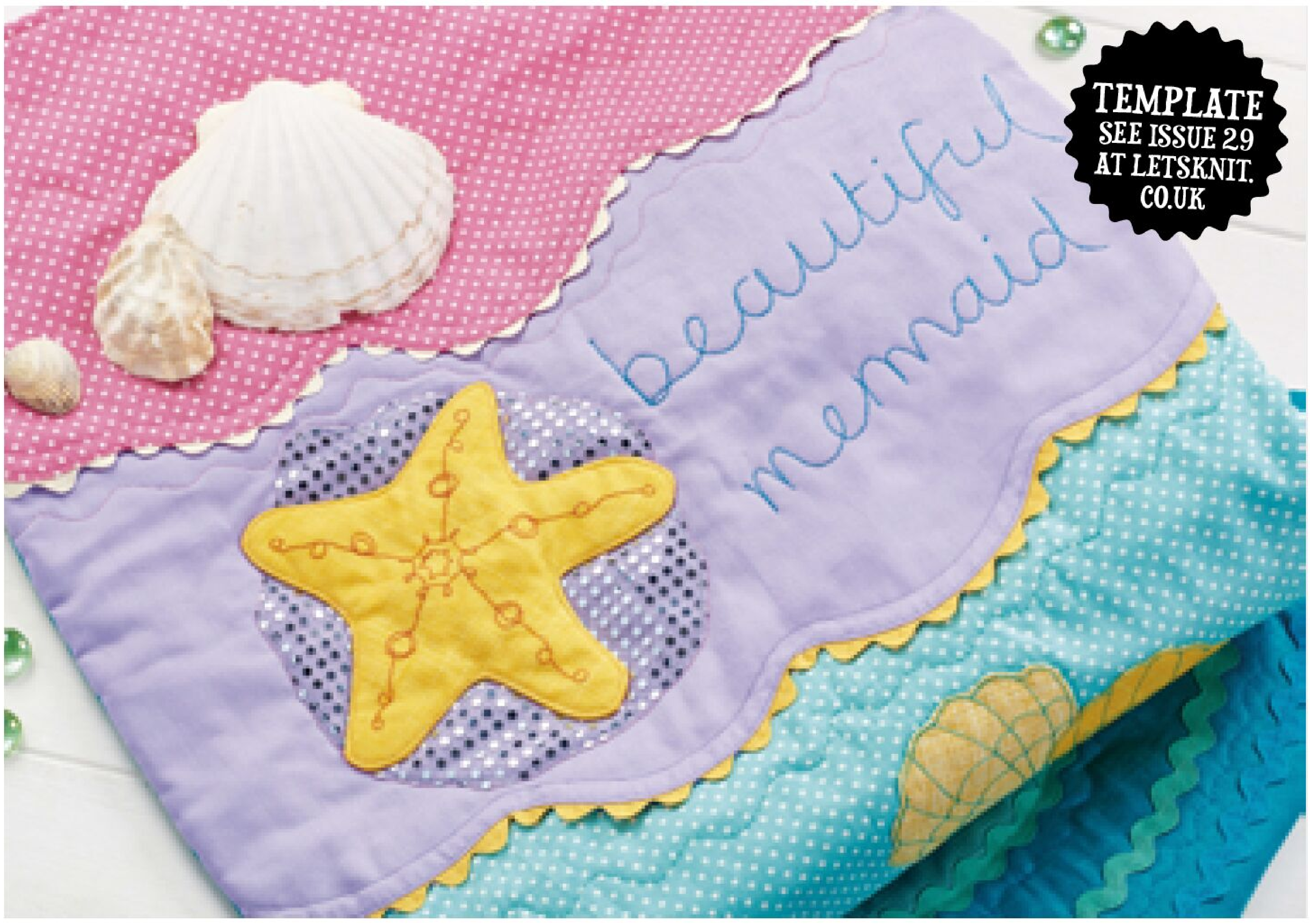
Mermaid tail

Every girl dreams of being a mermaid, so grant a wish with this bright and colourful mermaid's tail

KIT LIST

★ Cotton fabric: pale blue spotty, sea green linear print, lilac, spotty pink, one fat quarter of each ★ Dark teal cotton fabric, 1.5m ★ Iron-on interfacing ★ Wadding ★ Silver sequin fabric, yellow fabric, yellow linear print fabric, small amount of each ★ Jumbo ric-rac trim, teal, mid green, lime, yellow, iridescent blue, cream ★ Thread, dark rust, teal, dark teal

Size: 42.5cm x 96cm


TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Use template 1 to cut a fish tail from dark teal fabric. Pin and stitch teal ric-rac in a gentle curve across the width of the tail, 6cm up from the bottom mid-point of the fabric, then sew a length of mid green ric-rac just above it. Repeat with blue sparkle ric-rac, creating two curved lines across the left and right-hand side of the tail. Iron on the reverse.

2 Use template 2 to cut a piece from green linear print fabric. Place the bottom curved edge right sides together with the top curved edge of the tail. Pin together, starting from the middle to the left edge, then repeat to the right – this prevents the fabric being stretched. Stitch a 1cm seam across, then snip into the curve and press. Pin and stitch teal ric-rac across the join, then set aside.

3 Cut a piece from blue spot fabric using template number 3, then interface with the same fabric by turning the template over and cutting a second section that is shown by the dashed curved line on the pattern. Pin right sides together, trapping a length of lime green ric-rac right across as you go. Allow at least 4cm overhang at both sides as ric-rac frays easily. Stitch a 1cm seam, clip into the curves, then push the ric rac out to the right side. Iron on a warm setting and topstitch close to the edge. Lay it right side up on top of the green linear section, overlapping by 2cm, pin and stitch across again, 1cm up from the line of topstitching. Set aside.

4 Repeat to create the lilac section with yellow ric-rac, using template 4, then stitch it onto the top of the blue spot section. Repeat with template 5, sewn from pink spot fabric with cream ric-rac, then attach it on top of the lilac section and set aside. Cut a front and back starfish from yellow fabric and another in wadding – set this aside. Trace the starfish pattern detail onto white tissue, pin onto the yellow fabric then machine or hand embroider the detail with dark rust thread. Tear away the tissue and iron the reverse.

5 Lay the front and back of the starfish right sides together, then place the wadding starfish underneath and pin all three together. Stitch all the way around with a 0.5cm seam allowance, leaving a small gap for turning. Snip into the curves, trim the excess from across the corners and turn right side out. Pin the starfish in place to check the placement, trapping a rough circle cut from sequin fabric beneath it. Remove the starfish and stitch the sequin circle in place. Pin the starfish on top, machine stitch all the way around with dark rust thread just inside the edge, then iron on the reverse.

6 Snip two shells from different yellow fabrics and back with interfacing. Pin in place, trapping a small piece of sequin fabric underneath one shell, and machine stitch around them with teal thread just inside the raw edge. Trace the shell detail onto tissue, pin and stitch over it twice, then remove the paper and iron on the reverse. Use

the tail front as a template to cut two pieces from wadding and a back from dark teal fabric. Pin one piece of wadding to the wrong side of the front and the other to the wrong side of the back, using pins all over and not just at the sides. Set the back aside.

7 Machine or hand quilt a number of wavy lines across the pink spot and dark tail sections in between the ric-rac. Add just one wavy line at the top of the lilac and blue spot sections, and quilt around the shells, starfish and sequin pieces. Trace the 'beautiful mermaid' template onto tissue, embroider it onto the lilac section next to the starfish in dark teal thread, then remove the paper and set the front aside.

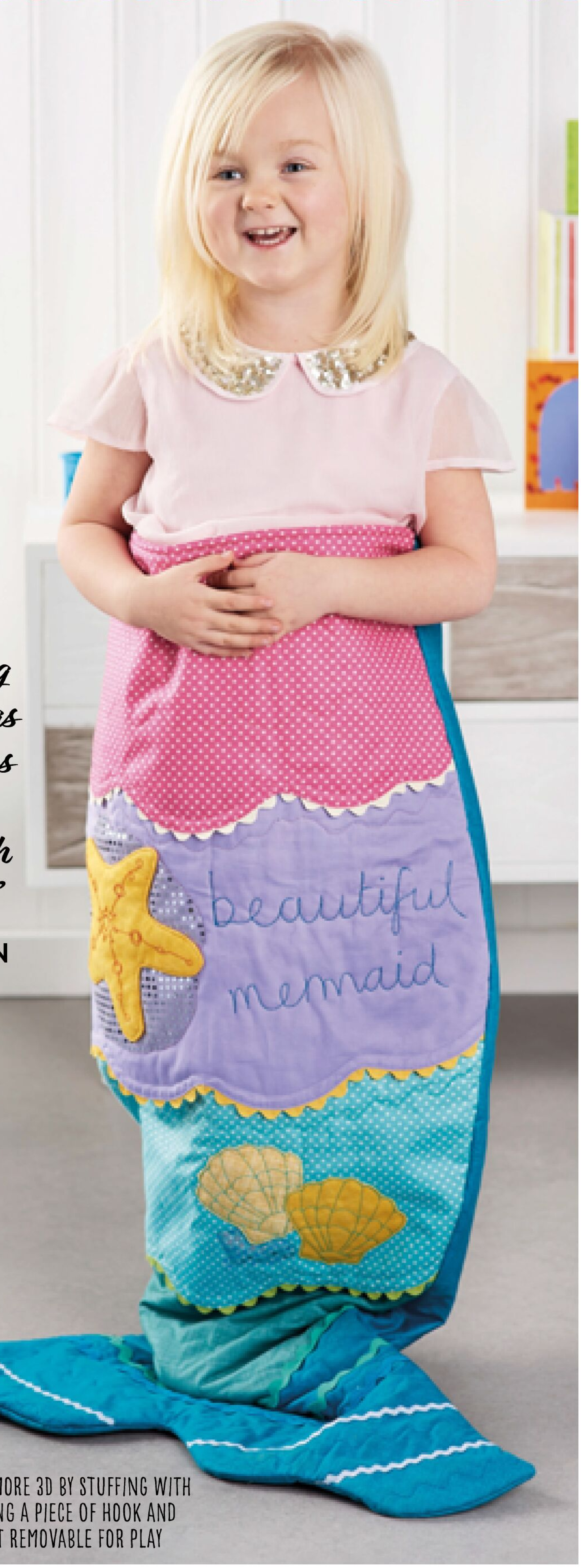
8 Take the back section and sew random wavy lines in dark teal thread down its full length. Before stitching the front and back together, use one of them as a template to cut two linings from pink spot fabric, remembering to turn over for the second piece, then set aside. Pin the front to the back, right sides together, then stitch a 1cm seam all the way around, leaving the top open. Trim excess fabric and wadding and snip into the curves of the tail, leaving a 0.5cm seam. Set aside.

9 Pin the two lining pieces right sides together and sew a 1cm seam all the way around, leaving the top open. Place the lining right side out inside the finished outer that is wrong side out – they will now both be right sides together. Pin around the top, matching the side seams, then sew a 1cm seam all the way around, leaving a 15cm gap at the back for turning. Trim the wadding close to the stitch line, then turn right side out through the gap. Push the tail section out well, before closing the gap. Topstitch around the top close to the edge. Machine stitch across the upper part of the tail section or leave unstitched if you want the extra length.

IMAGINATIVE PLAY

"Take your time snipping into curves, as it really helps to create a smooth finish once ironed"

CAROLYN LETTEN
DESIGNER



TOP TIP! MAKE THE STARFISH MORE 3D BY STUFFING WITH TOY FILLING AND USING A PIECE OF HOOK AND LOOP TAPE TO MAKE IT REMOVABLE FOR PLAY

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

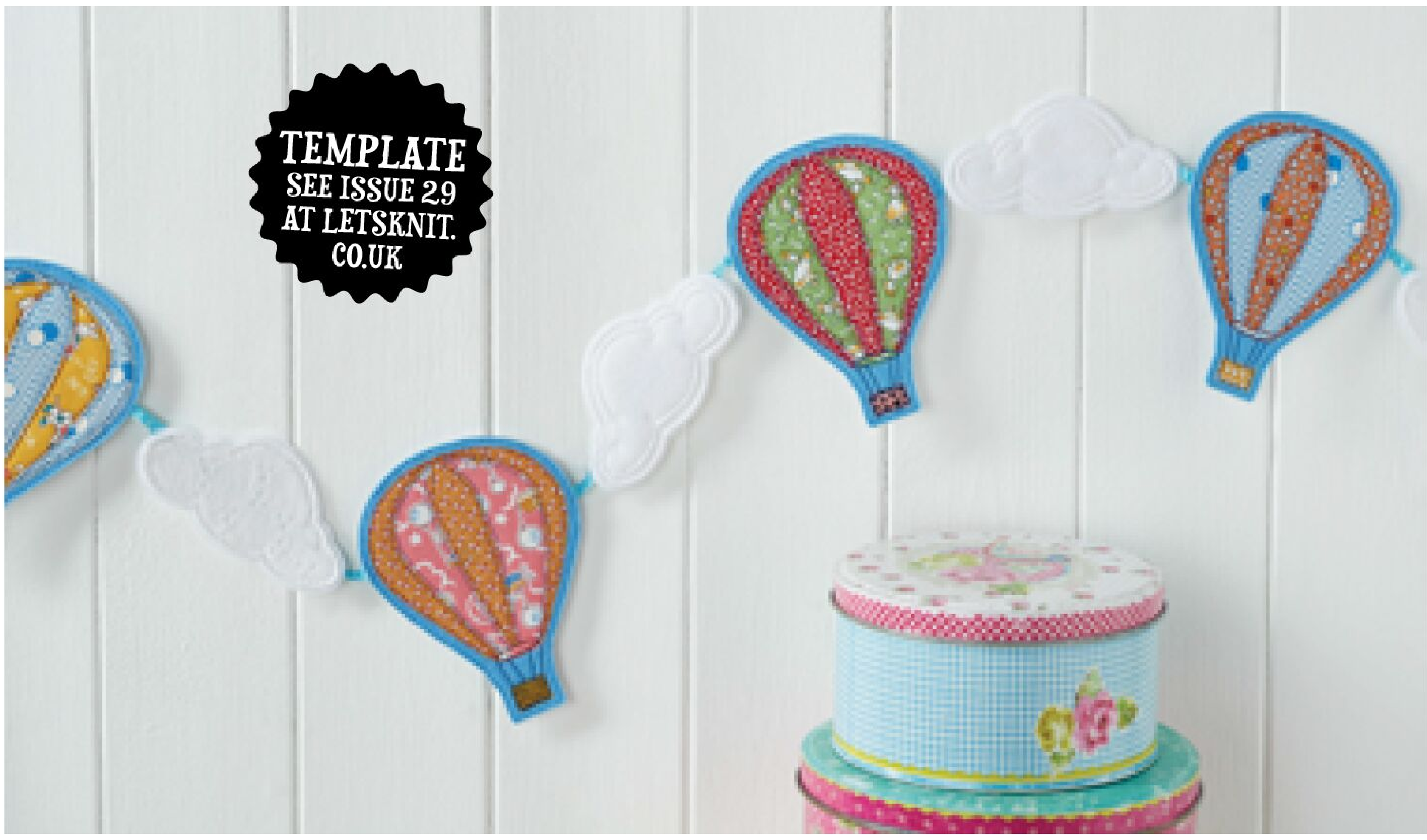
Balloon style

Using simple machine embroidery and appliqué techniques, these makes are easy to stitch and sure to make you smile

KIT LIST

- Cotton, blue, white
- Nursery print fabric
- Green floral print
- Blue and white felt
- Assorted printed fabrics, scraps
- White broderie anglaise
- Lightweight fusible interfacing
- Pelmet interfacing
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Cushion pad, 30cm x 50cm
- Large button, one
- Chevron print ribbon, 170cm
- Green ric-rac
- Acid-free glue

Pillow: 30cm x 50cm;
Bunting: 150cm


TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

CUSHION

1 Go to letsknit.co.uk to download and print the templates. Cut 32cm x 52cm from blue cotton. Cut a piece of green floral fabric 6cm at the left-hand edge, 13cm at the right and 32cm wide. Pin it across the bottom of the blue cotton, so that all edges match, and stitch across where they meet. Cover the join with a piece of green ric-rac. Iron on the reverse.

2 Use the template to trace the biggest hot air balloon. Cut a complete balloon from printed fabric, then cut two vertical strips from a contrasting colour or design. Back all the pieces with interfacing, pin in place and stitch to secure. Snip a basket from another print, securing it in the same way. Repeat this for the smaller balloon. Iron on the reverse.

3 Use the cloud templates to cut two big and two small ones from white cotton. Back all with lightweight interfacing. Cut two pieces of white broderie anglaise to cover the bigger clouds, and one piece to cover a smaller one. Pin and stitch with white thread to secure. For the larger clouds, stitch a smaller white felt shape over the top. Sew seven birds using the picture as a guide.

4 Cut 32cm x 40cm from blue cotton and turn one short end over twice by 1cm. Hem and set aside. Cut two more pieces, 23cm x 32cm and 16cm x 32cm. Pin together, right sides facing, across the width. Mark the middle and insert a 16cm loop of ribbon, in between the fabric, so the raw ends stick out. Stitch a 1cm seam across and press open. Hem the remaining raw edge of the smaller piece, fold wrong sides together along the looped hem, iron and topstitch 2mm from the fold.

5 Lay the appliquéd front right side up. Place the back piece with the loop, wrong side up, overlapping the top of the cushion and the remaining back section over the bottom end of the pillow, wrong side up. Pin and stitch 1cm from the edge all the way around. Clip the corners and turn out. Attach a large button for the ribbon loop to go over.

BUNTING

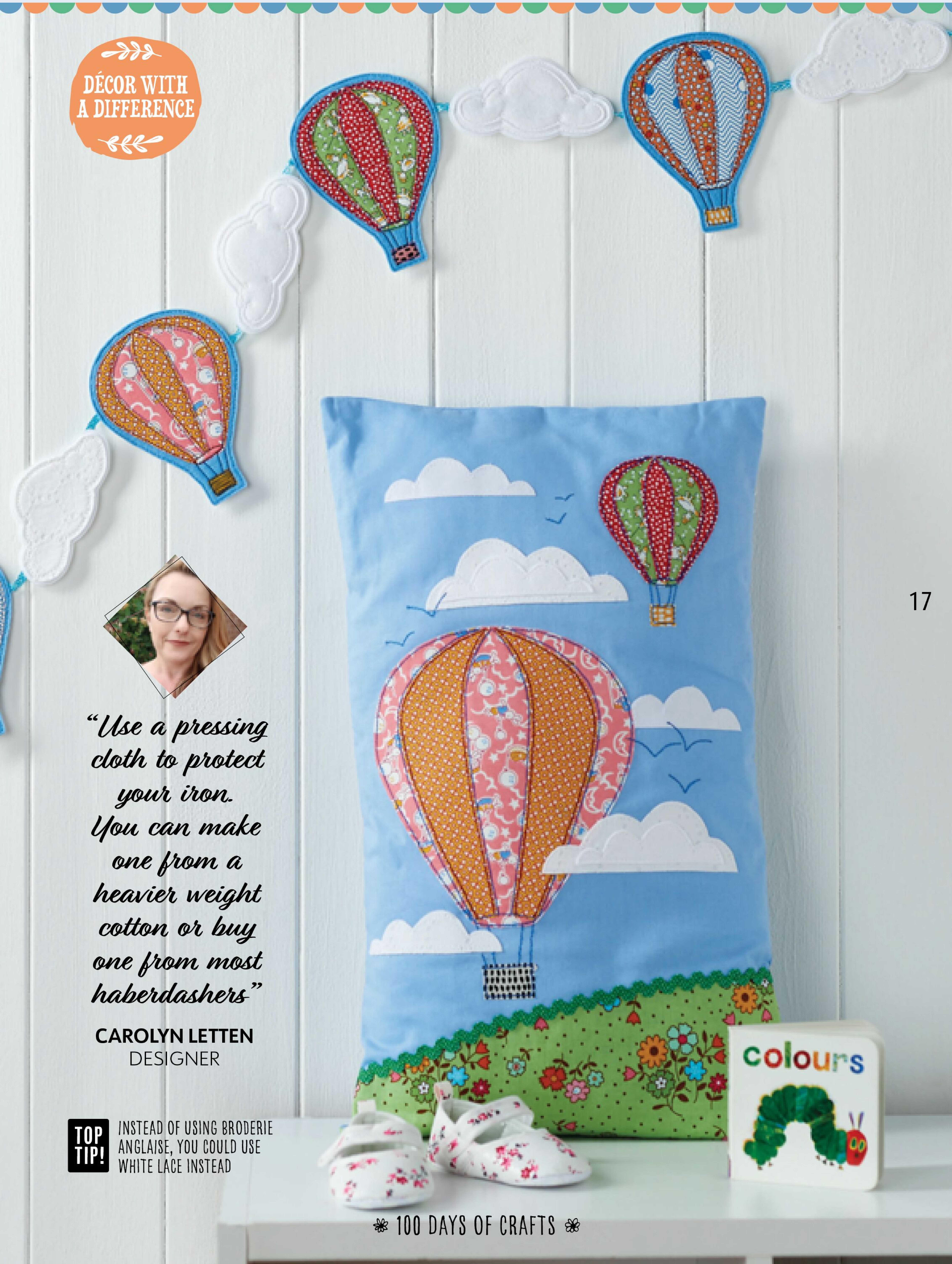
1 Use the template at letsknit.co.uk to cut out ten clouds from white felt, four should be slightly smaller, cut two from broderie anglaise. Cut out six pieces of pelmet interfacing that are larger than the template.

2 Use acid-free glue to stick six larger felt clouds to the interfacing. Stick the broderie anglaise over two of them and the four smaller shapes into the middle of the remaining clouds. Once dry, stitch just in from the edge of each cloud in white thread. Trim away the excess interfacing to 3mm from the felt edge. Set aside.

3 Cut five complete balloon and basket shapes from blue felt, 5mm bigger than the template all the way around, plus five pieces of pelmet interfacing that are at least 2cm bigger than the felt ones. Glue these together, then topstitch just inside the edge in coordinating thread.

4 Use the template to cut the coloured balloon top and contrast sections, back with interfacing, and stitch to each of the blue felt pieces. Cut five small baskets from printed fabric, stick in place and stitch to secure. Cut away the excess interfacing.

5 Mark the middle of 150cm of chevron woven ribbon. Lay the centre balloon onto it and stitch in place at the edges of the blue felt. Leaving a 1cm gap in between each cloud and balloon, arrange and stitch until complete.



“Use a pressing cloth to protect your iron. You can make one from a heavier weight cotton or buy one from most haberdashers”

CAROLYN LETTEN
DESIGNER

TOP TIP! INSTEAD OF USING BRODERIE ANGLAISE, YOU COULD USE WHITE LACE INSTEAD

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Spa staples

Kick back and chill out with our two-step makes designed for maximum rest and relaxation

KIT LIST

Headband: ★ Cotton prints, two, fat quarters ★ Elastic, 1cm wide ★ Coordinating thread

Heat wrap: ★ Cotton prints ★ Dried wheat or rice ★ Dried lavender

Drawstring bag: ★ Cotton fabric ★ Embroidery thread

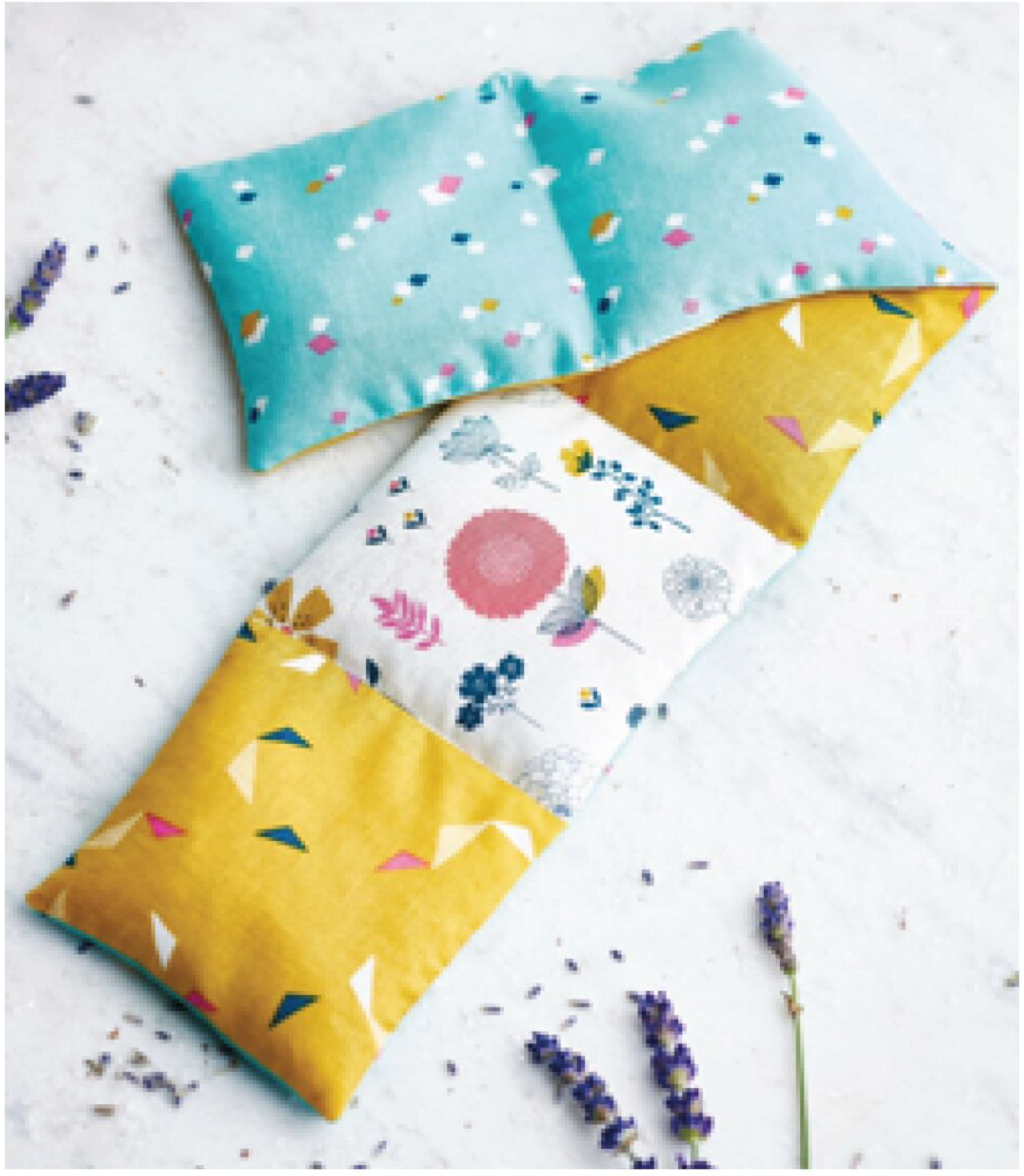
HEADBAND

1 Use fat quarters to make two 11cm x 116cm strips, one in each print; each made up from two 11cm x 55cm strips with one 11cm x 8cm strip in between. Iron the 116cm strips flat, then lay right sides together. Stitch along both long edges and turn right sides out to make a wide tube. Press seams accurately. Turn in 1cm at each end of the tube and pin two lengths of flat white elastic, 7.5cm, inside the folded ends by 1cm at each side to make a continuous band.

2 Topstitch around the entire band, 3mm from the edges to neaten and secure the elastic pieces. Hold the band at the elastic end, to fold it in half. Twist the band halfway along by 360°, then bring the folded end under on itself to cover the elastic end. This will create a linked loop effect at the front of the headband.

HEAT WRAP

1 Cut five 11cm squares of patterned fabric and sew right sides together to make a strip. Trim 11cm x 51cm of backing fabric and sew to the strip, right sides together along both short edges and one long. Stitch the remaining long side, leaving 4cm gaps in the centre of each square section.

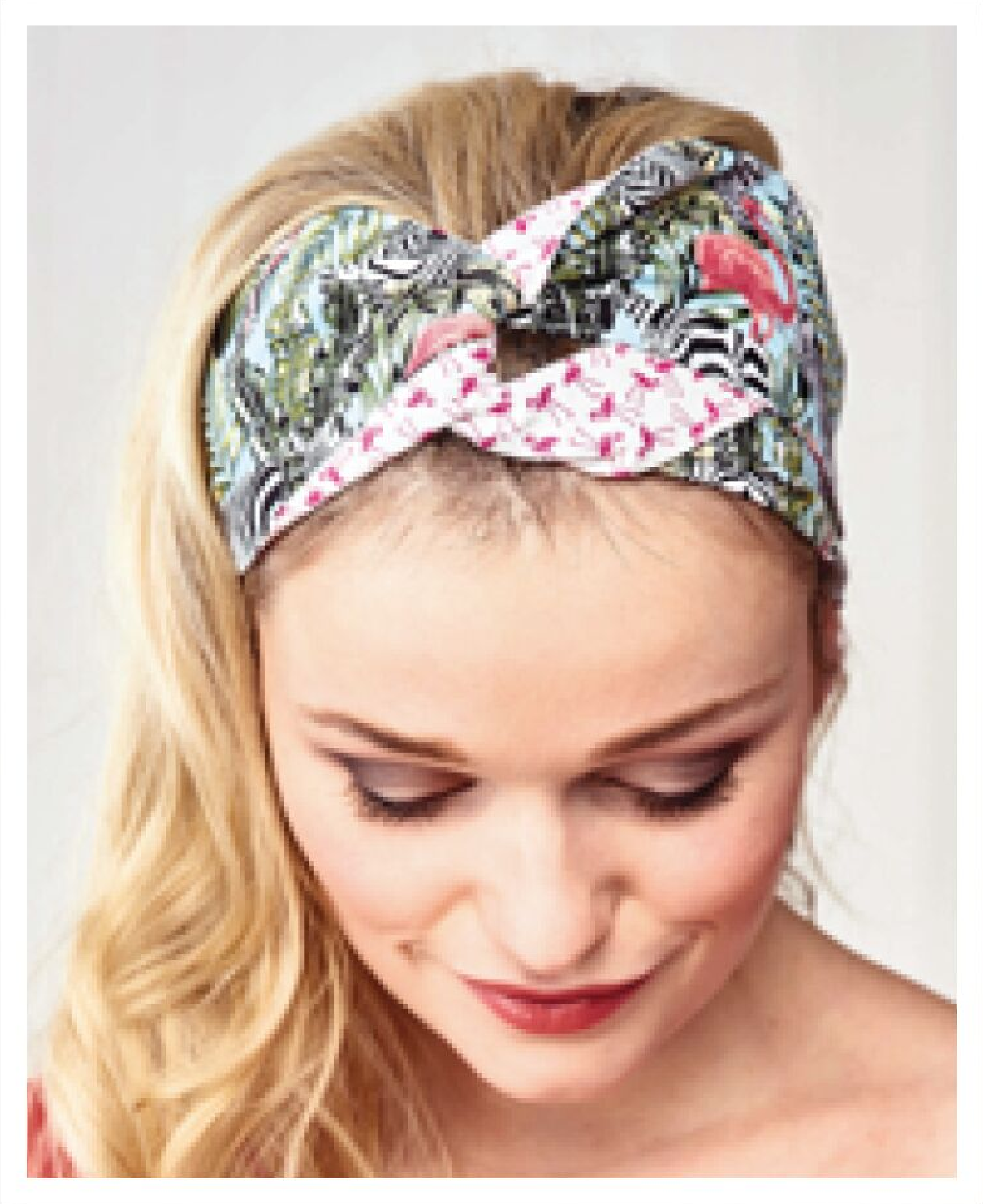


2 Turn the fabric out through one of the gaps and press. Pin and topstitch the fabrics together on the square seam lines to make separate sections. Half fill each section with your choice of grain using a funnel, then add in some dried lavender. Fold the raw edges of the gaps in and slip stitch closed.

DRAWSTRING BAG

1 Cut cotton fabric, 10cm x 25cm, and fold in 1cm on both long edges. Turn in 5mm, then 2cm on both short edges to hem and topstitch two parallel lines to make a channel. Fold the fabric in half right sides together and stitch down the sides, starting the seam as close to the folded ends of the channels as possible. Turn the bag right side out and press.

2 Thread a blunt needle with embroidery thread and pass through the channels, tying the ends into a knot. Pass another length of thread through the channels from the other side to create a second knot. The two knots can then be pulled to gather the top of the bag evenly.



GREAT FOR GIFTING

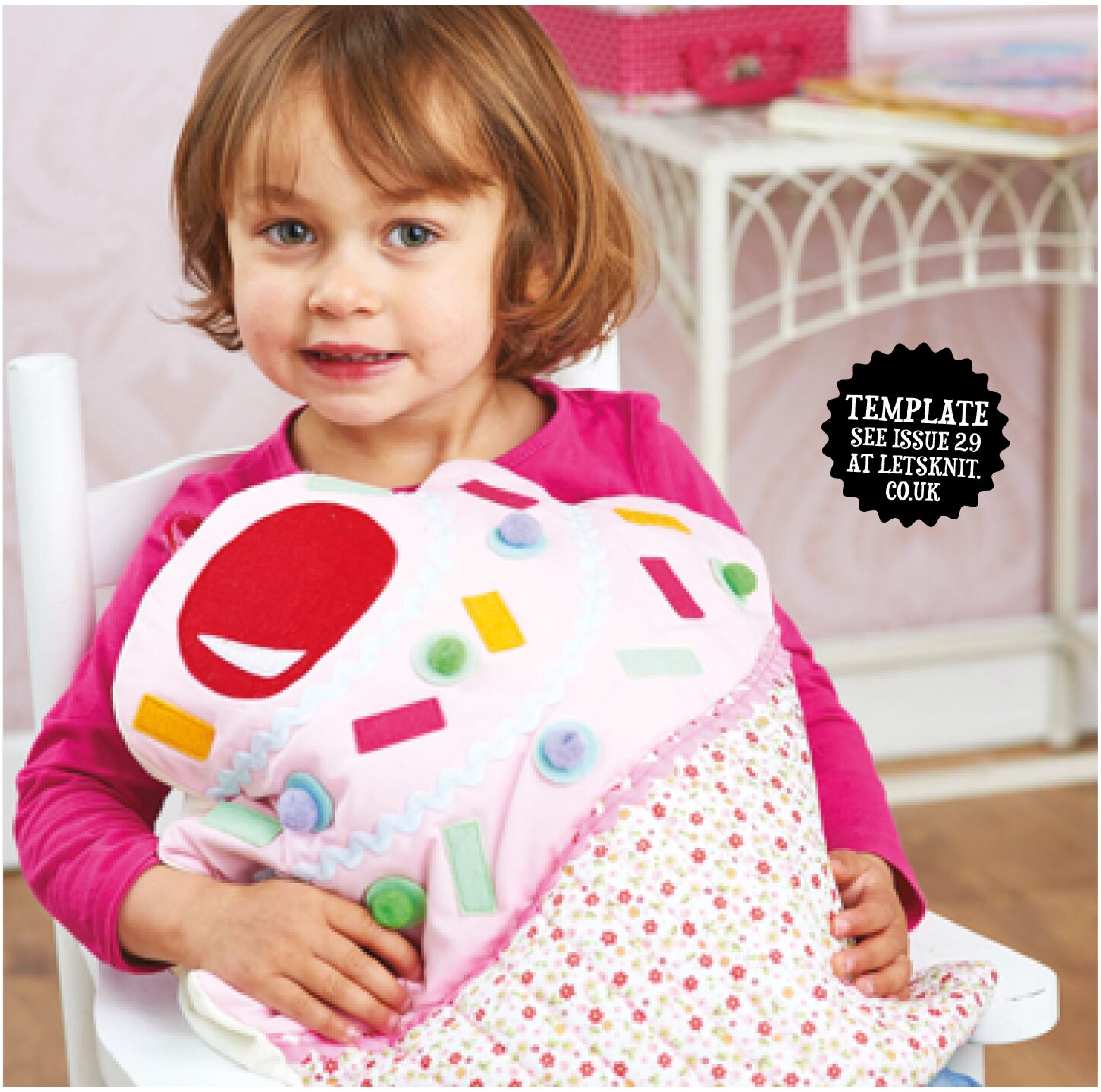
DESIGNER **JANE KHARADE**

Cupcake PJ case

Children won't need nagging to put away their night clothes with this delightful nightdress pouch

KIT LIST

★ Cream fabric, 50cm ★ Pink fabric, fat quarter ★ Floral print, fat quarter ★ Selection of felt colours, scraps ★ PVA glue ★ Heavyweight wadding ★ White concealed zip, 25cm ★ Green and blue pom-poms, 1.5cm ★ Pink and blue large ric-rac, 1m of each ★ Pink herringbone ribbon, 10cm


TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

1 Go online to letsknit.co.uk and download the templates. Cut out the following fabric pieces: one floral base, one pink top, two top and two bottom backs, and one cream front lining.

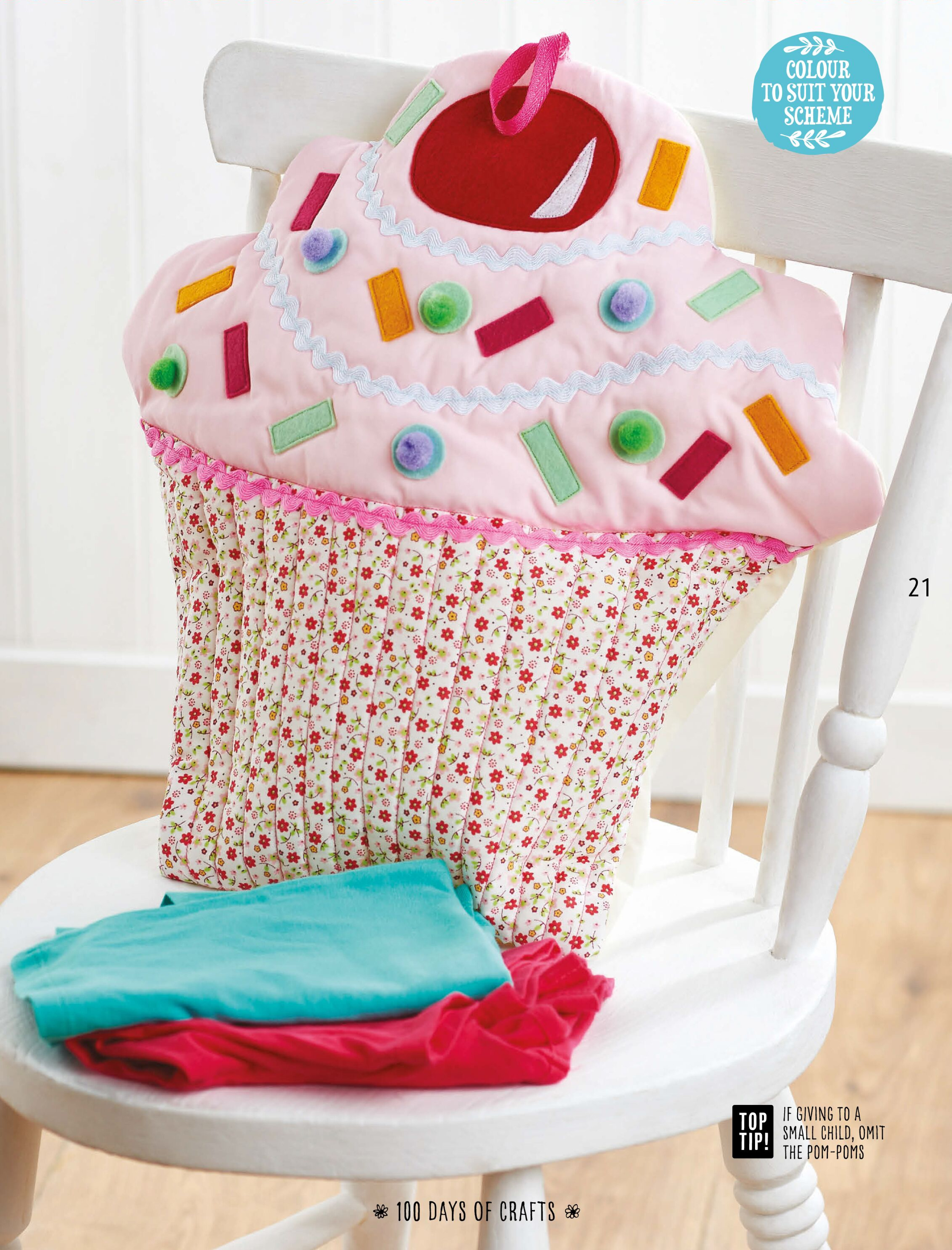
2 Pin and stitch the long edges of the floral base and the pink upper together with a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seams flat so they lie against the floral fabric. Cut wadding a little larger than the front panel. Pin and stitch the padding to the wrong side as near to the edge of the fabric as possible and trim the edges close to the stitching.

3 Use a tape measure and erasable pen to mark lines on the floral fabric, approximately 2cm apart. Topstitch in contrasting thread to create a quilted effect. Pin and sew pink ric-rac along the fabric join between the base and top. Add two lengths of blue trim to the upper section slightly curving each piece.

4 To embellish the upper section, cut four 1.5cm x 3.5cm rectangles each from yellow, dark pink and light green felt. Position the strips with a few dots of PVA glue and, once dry, secure with small machine stitches using matching thread. Draw around a coin to make small felt circles in aqua and pale green; three of each colour. Glue a pom-pom to each disc, and dot randomly around the top between the ric-rac. Stitch in place. Cut a large red felt cherry shape and a white scrap to represent a reflection. Machine stitch near the top of the cupcake using the photo to guide you.

5 Lay the back pieces together. Top lining and facing together, then the bottom lining and facing together. Press, and stitch each piece together using a 1.5cm seam allowance. Insert a concealed zip between the upper and lower back sections. Begin by stitching the two pieces together in a contrasting thread, using large tacking stitches. With a machine zip foot, tack in the zip to prevent it moving. Reduce the stitch size and sew close to the zip's teeth. Use a regular machine foot to sew either side of the zip to the end of the fabric. Remove the tacking stitches.

6 Layer the pieces of the cupcake together. Decorated front right side up, back with zip piece right side down, then the front lining right side down. Position a length of pink ribbon at the top front, facing inwards. Pin and stitch the layers together leaving a small gap at the bottom for turning through. Clip the curves, turn out, then hand sew the gap closed.



COLOUR TO SUIT YOUR SCHEME

TOP TIP! IF GIVING TO A SMALL CHILD, OMIT THE POM-POMS

DESIGNER **AMANDA WALKER**

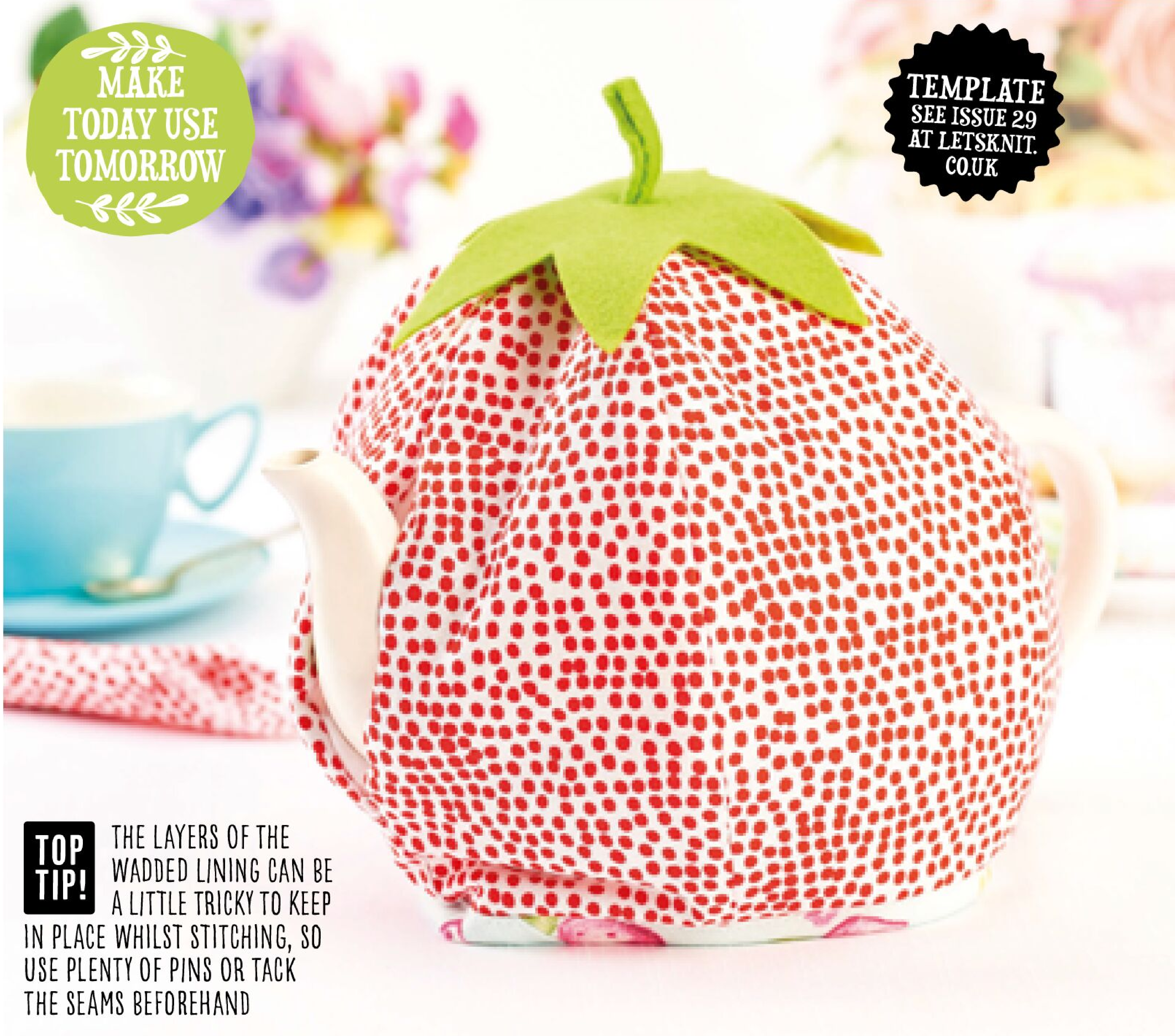
Berry tea cosy

This fresh and fruity project is just the thing to complement a summer afternoon in the garden

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: red spotty; lining ★ Felt, green ★ Wadding ★ Button

NOTE: the template for the cosy will fit a pot with a circumference of 45cm and 18cm high. To scale up the dimensions, enlarge the templates by percentages on your computer. The completed circumference of the cosy is 5cm larger than the pot to accommodate the wadding and for ease of use.



MAKE TODAY USE TOMORROW

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

TOP TIP! THE LAYERS OF THE WADDED LINING CAN BE A LITTLE TRICKY TO KEEP IN PLACE WHILST STITCHING, SO USE PLENTY OF PINS OR TACK THE SEAMS BEFOREHAND

1 Cut six segments each in spotty fabric, lining and wadding. Trim a leaf from green felt. Lay two lining pieces one on top of the other and sandwich these between two wadding segments. Stitch from the straight base up to the top with a 6mm seam allowance, leaving 6mm unstitched at the end.

2 Attach another four piece sandwich; three segments are now joined. Repeat to make the opposite side of the cosy. Place the two halves over your tea pot and pin from the lid to the top of the handle, then from the lid to the top of the spout and underneath it. Stitch from the starting point to as far as these pin points and beneath the spout; the handle side is left open.

3 To make the outer part, stitch the spotty segments right sides together in the same way as the lining. Press the seam allowances open. The two layers need to be sewn together around the spout and the handle slits; start on one side of the spout opening, fold the outer layer over to the opposite side, then stitch the remaining side. It's best to tack these together first to make sure everything is the right way around. Repeat around the handle.

4 Snip a bias strip from spotty fabric, 5cm wide and the circumference of the cosy base plus 8cm. Fold and press the two edges into the centre. Unfold one of the edges and position this around the base of the cosy, right sides together. Leave 1cm extra binding at one end of the opening and the remainder at the other end. Stitch in place along the pressed line.

5 Fold the raw 1cm edge over itself, then fold the binding around to the lining side. Pin and edge stitch in place from the right side of the cosy. Continue stitching into the excess binding at the opposite end. Turn the excess binding back on itself to create a loop and sew in place. Attach a button on the opposite side of the opening.

6 Trim green felt, 1.5cm x 8cm. Roll the strip and slip stitch to create a stem. Using sharp scissors, snip a few stitches in the top of the cosy and through into the lining. Make a small hole in the centre of the leaf, then push the stem through into the top of the cosy. Secure with a few hand stitches.

WHY NOT TRY...

This strawberry cosy could also be turned into an apple by making it up in green fabric with a brown felt stem and different shaped leaf

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Girl's sunhat

Raid your scrap stash and whip up a handy reversible sunhat that's perfect for holidays

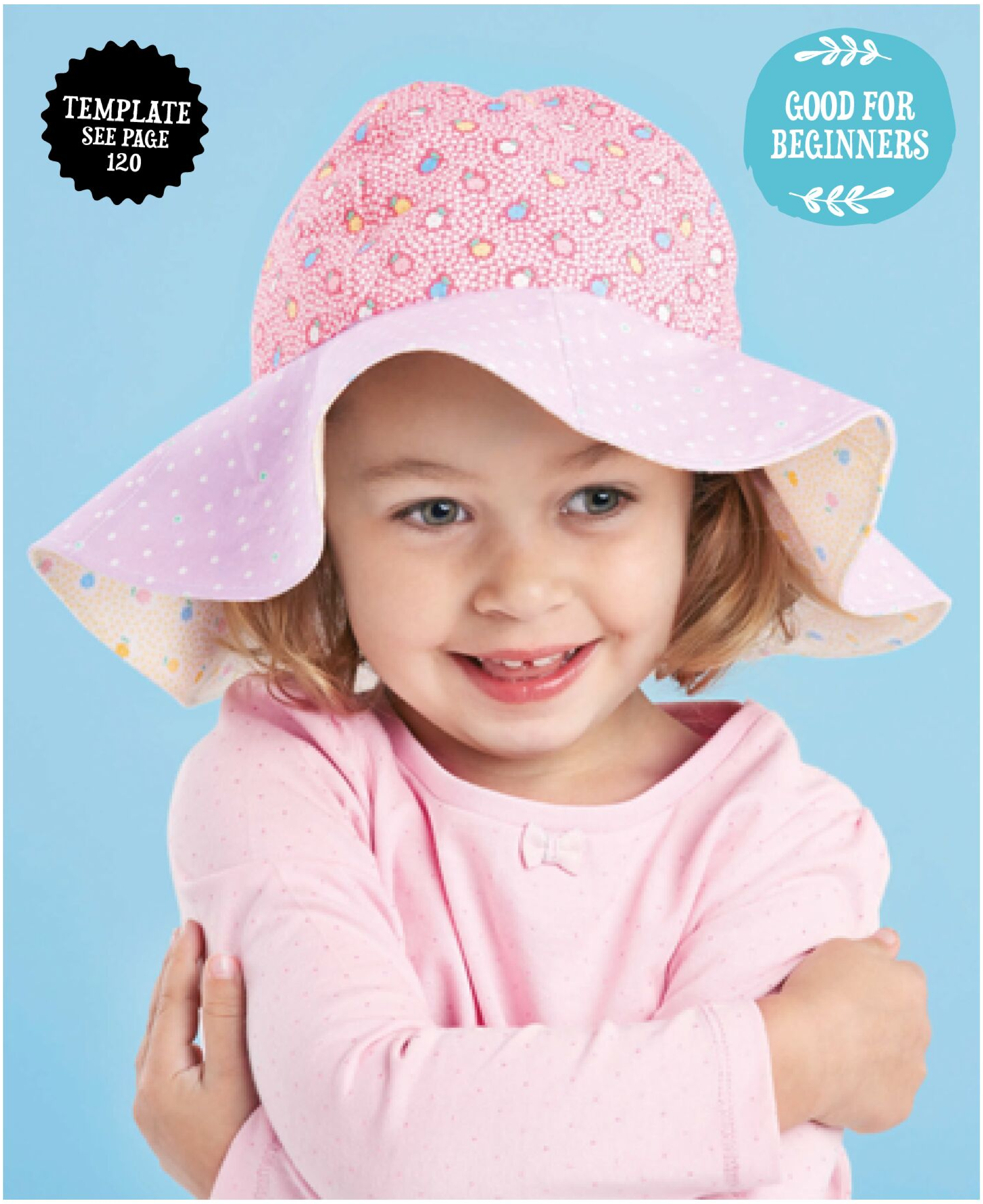
KIT LIST

- Cotton, four coordinating prints
- Fusible interfacing

CUTTING GUIDE

- **Outer fabric brim:** cut four
- **Inner fabric brim:** cut four
- **Interfacing brim:** cut four

Size: 50cm circumference (enlarge or reduce pattern pieces to fit)



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

1 Download the templates letsknit.co.uk and cut out the pattern pieces according to the cutting guide. Fuse the interfacing to the centre reverse of the inner fabric pieces. Stitch the four inner pieces, right sides together, on the straight edges to make a ring.

2 Sew the four outer pieces together in the same way. Press seams to one side and topstitch 3mm from the line of stitching. Working with right sides together, place one ring on top of the other, positioning the seams of the top piece in between the seams of the bottom.

3 Stitch the rings together around the outside. Turn right sides out and press the seam. Topstitch the outside of the ring, 5mm from the edge. Sew the crown pieces together, right sides facing, and topstitch the seams as before. Put the inner crown section to one side. Pin the brim of the hat around the bottom edge of the crown, with outer sides together.

4 Position the seams of the crown in between the seams of the brim and ease the fabric of the crown to fit, if necessary. Stitch the pieces together and push the crown inside out. Take the remaining crown and fold up 5mm along the bottom edge. Slip the crown over the hat and slipstitch in place, covering the raw edges of the seam just sewn. Press to finish.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

TOP TIP! MAKE THIS HAT SUPER VERSATILE BY PLANNING THE OUTER AND REVERSE SIDE COLOURWAYS SO THAT THEY MATCH DIFFERENT OUTFITS – PERHAPS BRIGHTS VS PASTELS, MONOCHROME VS COLOURS OR NEUTRALS VS A STANDOUT SHADE

DESIGNER **CHLOE HAILWOOD**

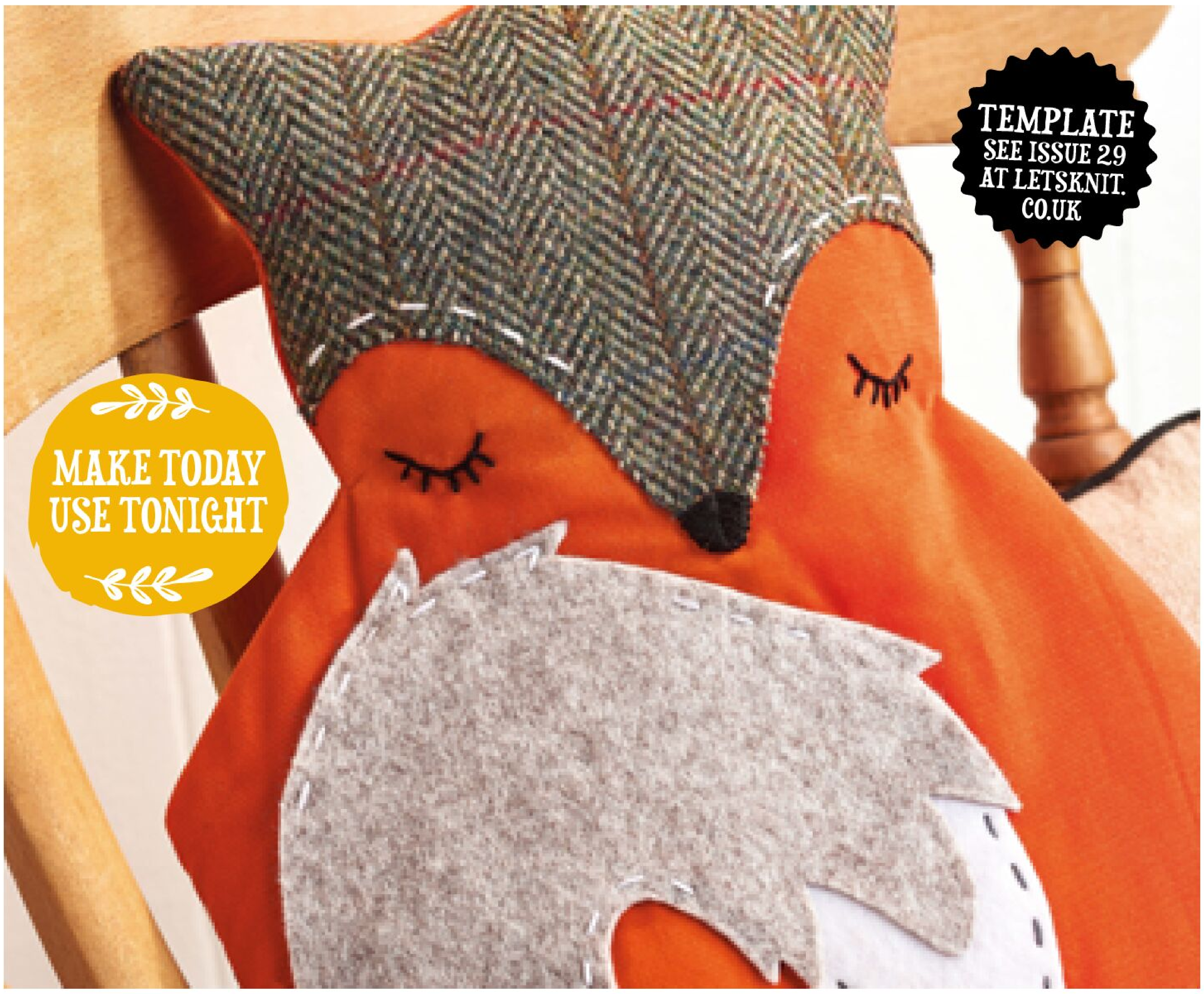
Foxy hottie cosy

This adorable pal is guaranteed to add an autumnal touch to your décor

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: needlecord cotton, lining, 50cm or two fat quarters each; tweed, 20cm x 23cm ★ Polyester wadding, 4oz, 33cm x 47cm ★ Felt, two shades, 22cm square ★ Fusible webbing, 40cm x 45cm ★ Embroidery thread and needle

Size: to fit a standard two-litre hot water bottle, 22cm x 35cm



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

MAKE TODAY USE TONIGHT

1 Download the templates at letsknit.co.uk, then print and cut out. On the reverse of orange needlecord, mark and cut out one front body piece and two back sections. Repeat with lining. Iron the shiny side of fusible webbing to the reverse of the tweed and two felt shades. Allow to cool before marking the head template on the reverse of the tweed and the two tail templates on the reverse of the felt. Cut out each piece, then pin the front body piece template directly to the wadding before trimming.

2 Peel the paper backing from the fused tweed and place directly on top of the needlecord front body piece at the head, matching up the ears. Lay a pressing cloth in between the iron and tweed, then gently press until the fabric has bonded to the needlecord. Repeat with the felt tails, layering the smaller on top of the larger, before placing the whole tail onto the front of the needlecord body. Place the tail centrally, 2cm up from the straight edge of the front body piece, to allow room for making up the cover.

3 Using a needle and embroidery thread, make running stitches at intervals around the tail to create eyebrows along the tweed. Embroider the eyes with a large fly stitch, bring the needle up through the back of the fabric and down again 3cm away, leaving a 2cm length of thread hanging at the front of the fabric. Come back up with the needle and make small stitches along the curve of the hanging thread to hold in place, before stitching eyelashes along the bottom of the curve.

4 Embroider the nose with fishbone stitch to fill, using the pointed end of the fabric as a guide. Starting right at the centre of the tip of the nose, make a 3mm stitch, then bring the needle up and through. Next, bring the needle to the top of the starting stitch, taking it back down at a slight diagonal angle to the bottom of the starting stitch. Repeat to the left of the starting stitch taking the needle down to the bottom of the second stitch and so on, until you have covered a 1.5cm area.

5 Take the head-shaped back piece, labelled number one, in both the needlecord and lining and, with right sides facing, stitch along the longest straight edge. Press open the seam before folding with wrong sides facing and all edges matching up. Repeat with the back piece labelled number two.

6 With right side facing downwards, lay the lining front body piece down flat. On top of this, match up and lay the wadding, then with right side facing upwards, sandwich the embroidered and appliquéd front body piece on top. With the needlecord side facing downwards, lay the lined back piece number one and back piece number two, making sure all the edges match up. Pin in place.

7 Stitch all around, taking care all the layers stay in place. Make small snips in the seam allowance at corners, particularly around the ears. Turn inside out through the envelope opening in the back, then push out the ears and seams to finish.

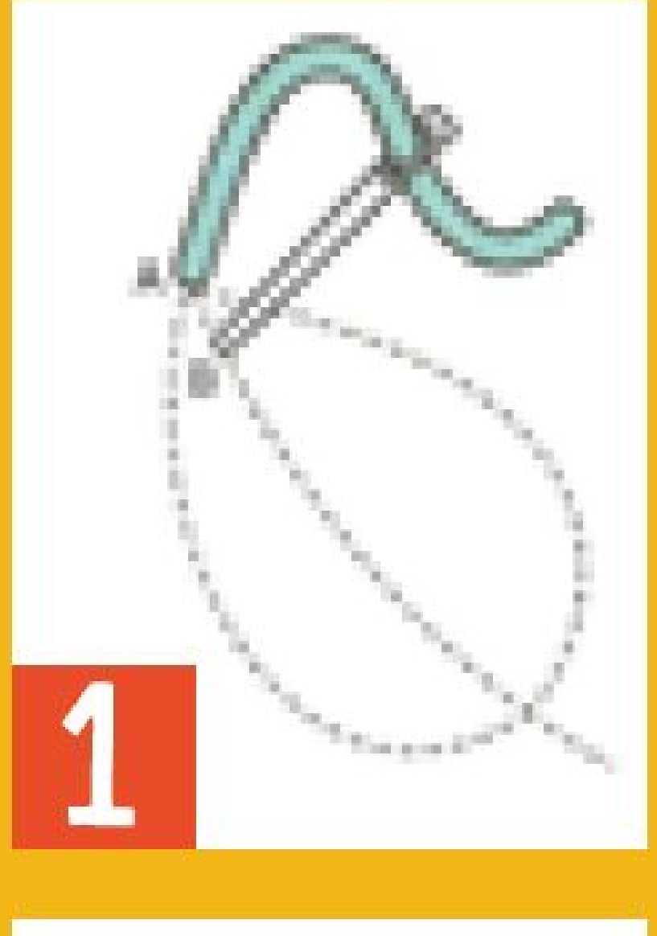
FISHBONE STITCH

1 Bring needle out at A, at the tip of the shape, and insert it at B, forming a small straight stitch down the centre line.

2 Bring needle out at C, on the outer edge of the shape, and insert it at D, next to the base of the first stitch.

3 Bring needle out at E, on the opposite edge, and insert it at F, overlapping the base of the previous stitch.

4 Bring needle out at G and insert it at H, overlapping the base of the previous stitch. Repeat steps until shape is filled, ensuring stitches are close together so fabric doesn't show.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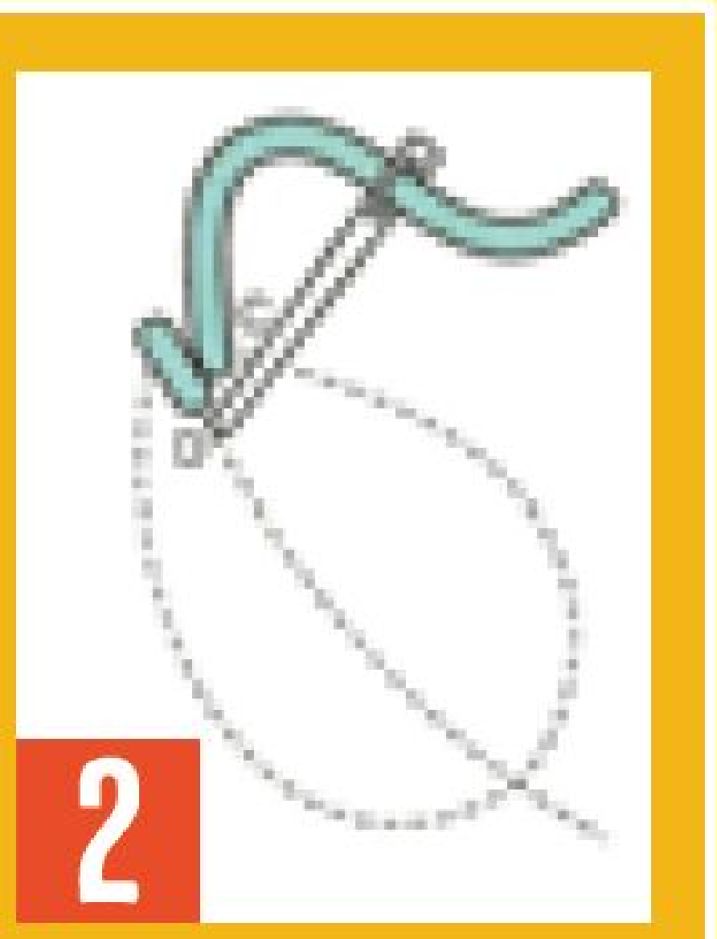
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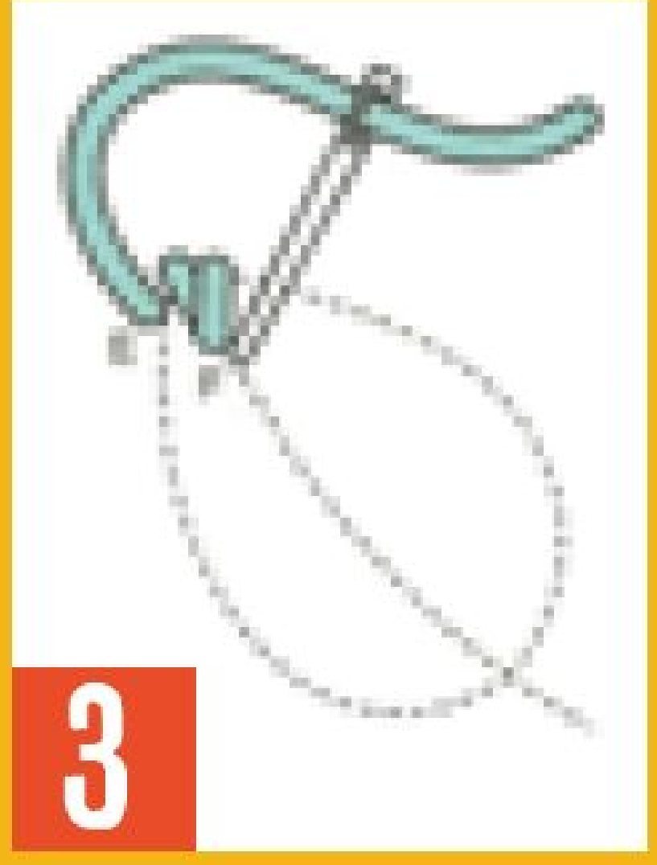
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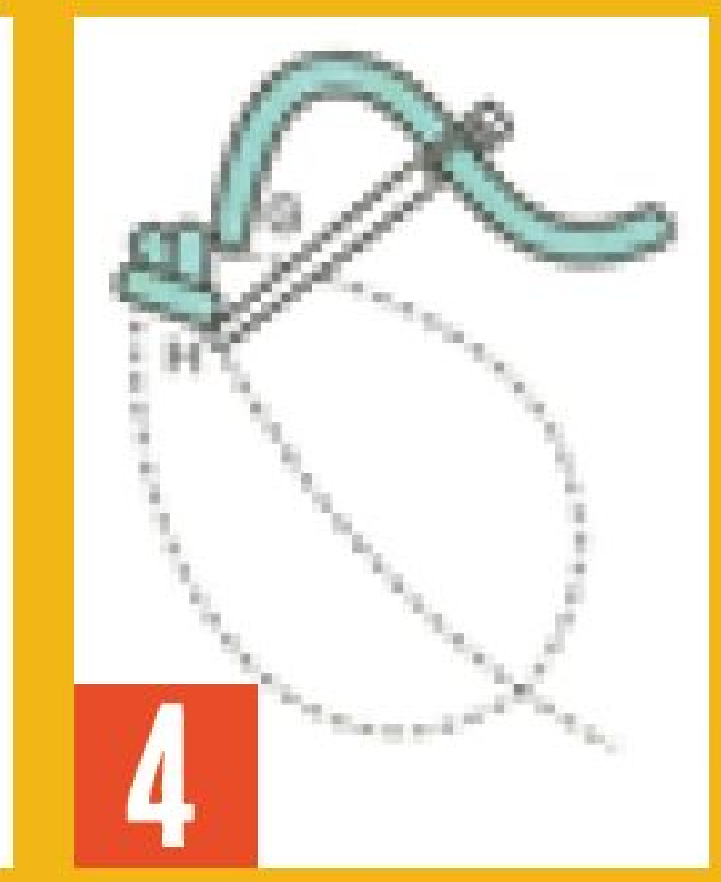
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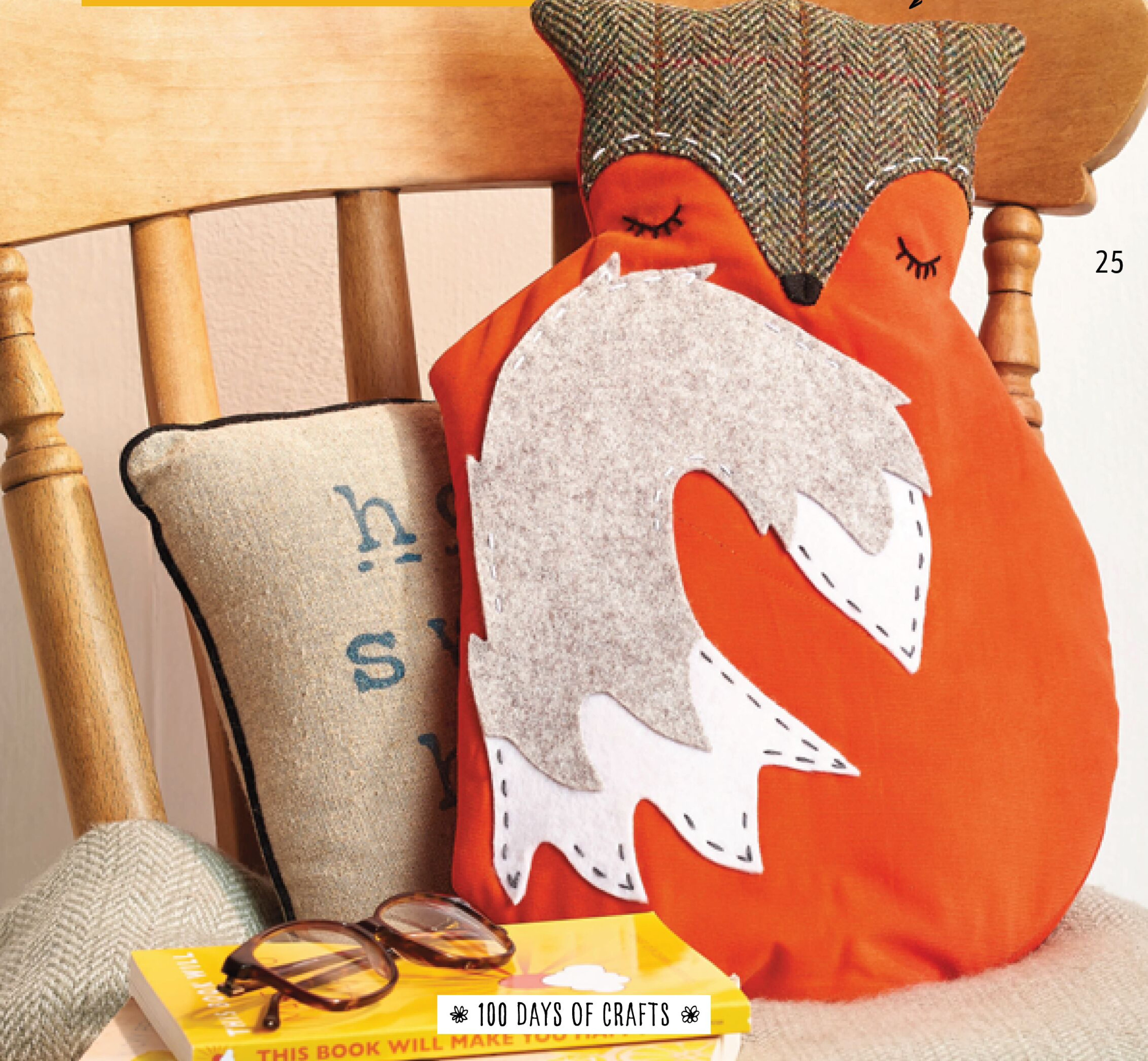


Combine a needlecord fat quarter with offcuts of tweed and felt

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Patchwork combo

Add a pop of colour and a dose of comfort to any room with this delightful duo

KIT LIST

- Cotton fabric, Art Gallery Fabrics Signature Collection in oval and square elements
- Backing fabric, white cotton
- Medium-weight wadding
- Cushion pad, 45cm square

Quilt: 76cm x 102cm; cushion: 46cm square

SQUARE QUILT

1 Cut 11cm squares from 12 contrasting fabrics, several 6cm wide strips from the same materials and four additional prints. Lay a strip of fabric on the left side of one square, right sides together, and stitch. Open out and trim the strip to the same depth as the square, then lay the remaining part of the strip across the bottom of the panel in the same way and repeat.

2 Keep adding strips of printed cotton to build up the size of the block, placing fabric on the left side of the square first so that the overlaps run in the same direction, then press and trim the edges. The finished block should measure 26cm square.

3 Cut quilt wadding, 25cm square, and pin it over the top, leaving a 5mm seam allowance around each edge. Use coordinating thread to topstitch both parts together along the seam lines, then add texture by stitching parallel lines 8mm apart over the first and third sets of patterned strips.

4 Create 11 more blocks in the same way, and arrange them in a three by four grid pattern, with each block facing the same direction. Attach the pieces, right sides together, with a 6mm seam allowance, then press and pin onto backing fabric.

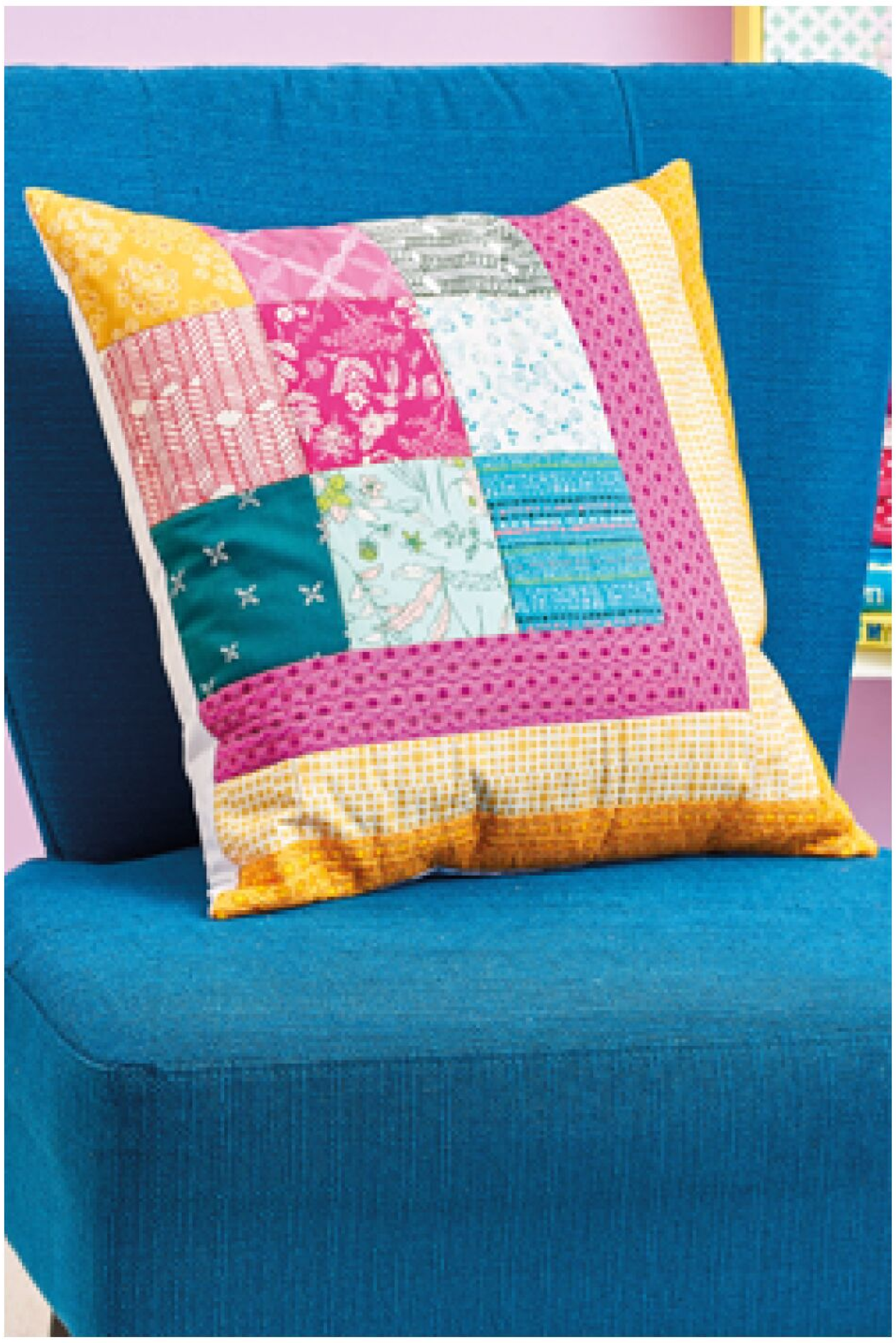
5 Tack the quilt to the backing with a 2mm seam allowance, and trim it to size. Cut several 3cm wide strips from squared element material, join the short ends to create binding, then sew it to the back of the quilt, mitring the corners as you do so. Fold the binding to the front, turn under 5mm on the raw edge and topstitch to secure.

CUSHION

1 Cut nine 11cm squares from contrasting cotton and sew them into a three by three block, right sides together. Add fabric strips in three designs to the edges of the left side and bottom of the block, then press.

2 Pin the block onto medium-weight wadding and topstitch along the seam lines, adding texture to the first and third set of strips like before. Trim the sides of the block, then tack the layers together at the edges.

3 Cut two pieces of plain cotton, 36cm x 46cm, and double hem one long edge of each piece before laying them over the cushion block, right sides together, with the hemmed edges overlapping. Sew around the cushion, clip the corners and turn the case right sides out to create an envelope back. Slip a square pad inside the case, pushing the corners out and allowing the back of the case to overlap.



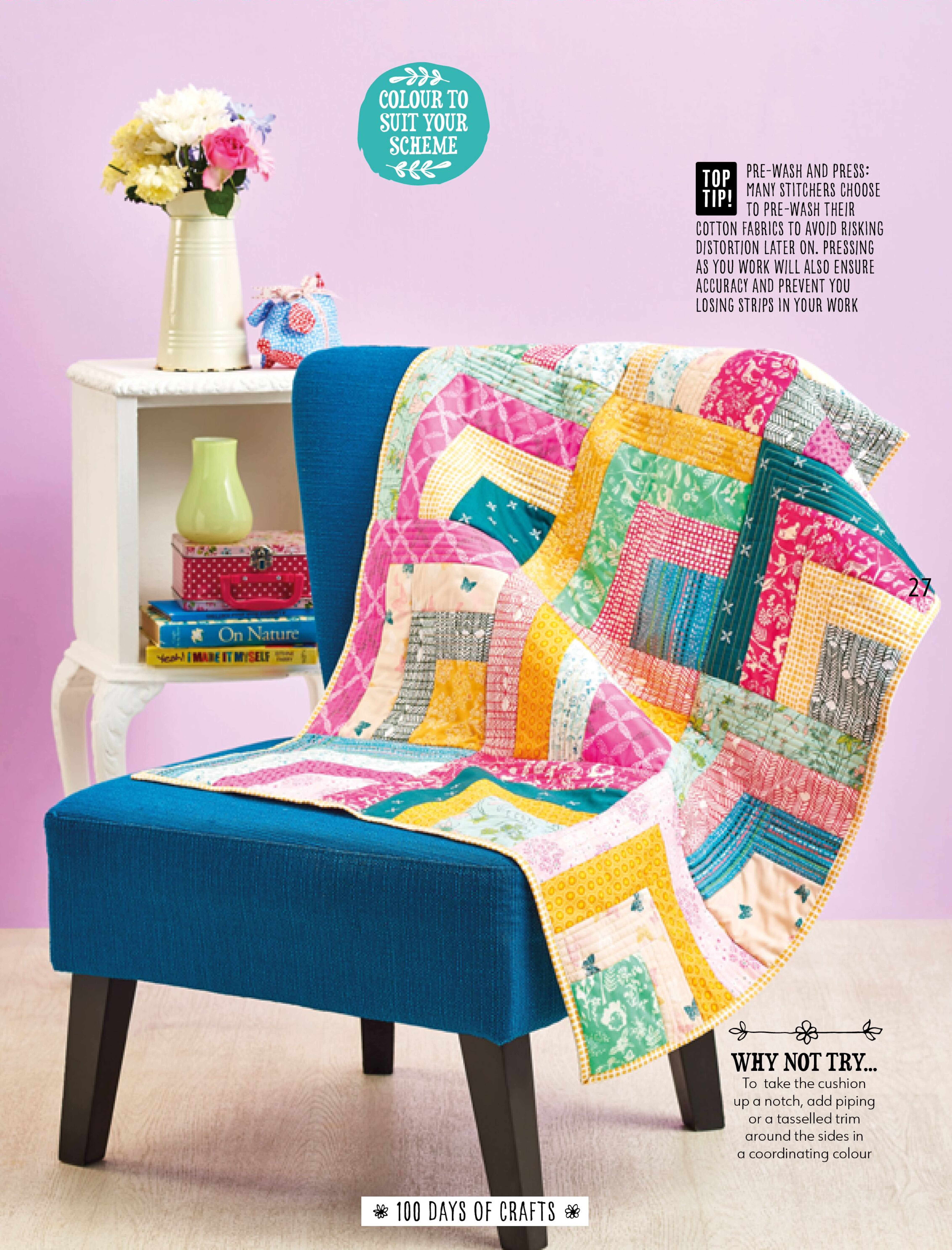
CLEAN CUTS

Accurate cutting makes or breaks your project. Following a few simple principles helps to ensure that you get outstanding results every time

★ Careful, smooth cuts around the pattern pieces are what you are trying to achieve; this will help the pieces fit together when you are making them up

★ Always aim to cut on a flat, smooth surface, and ensure that the scissors you are using are sharp. Use the full blade for the long, straight edges and work with smaller cuts around any curves

★ If you are right-handed, place your left hand on the pattern piece and fabric. Hold the scissor blades at right-angles to the fabric, and cut cleanly around each section. Reverse if you are left-handed



COLOUR TO SUIT YOUR SCHEME

TOP TIP! PRE-WASH AND PRESS: MANY STITCHERS CHOOSE TO PRE-WASH THEIR COTTON FABRICS TO AVOID RISKING DISTORTION LATER ON. PRESSING AS YOU WORK WILL ALSO ENSURE ACCURACY AND PREVENT YOU LOSING STRIPS IN YOUR WORK

WHY NOT TRY...

To take the cushion up a notch, add piping or a tasselled trim around the sides in a coordinating colour

DESIGNER **SANDRA HAMILTON**

Stacking rings

Little ones can learn as they play with this classic toy

KIT LIST

- Fabric, cotton: printed, 25cm, four; 35cm, one; plain, yellow, 10cm
- Interfacing: lightweight, 1m; heavy, 25cm
- Thread, embroidery
- Toy stuffing
- Cotton bud
- Blush (for cheeks)

Size: 22cm x 36cm

1 Download the templates at letsknit.co.uk and print. Use them to cut out two of each ring from fabric and lightweight interfacing. Tack the interfacing to the wrong sides of the rings and using a light box or window, mark the inner circle, both circular lines of stitching (indicated by the dotted line), crosses and notches on the interfacing.

2 Cut out the small circle in the centre of each ring, then clip out to the stitching line around it. Make cuts approximately 1cm apart around the outside of each ring, down to the stitching line.

3 Cut out the inner gussets for each ring. Mark the crosses. With right sides together, fold each gusset in half and sew into a ring with a 1cm seam allowance. Clip both edges approximately 1cm apart and 1cm deep. Turn right side out. Repeat for the outer gussets, marking the notches.

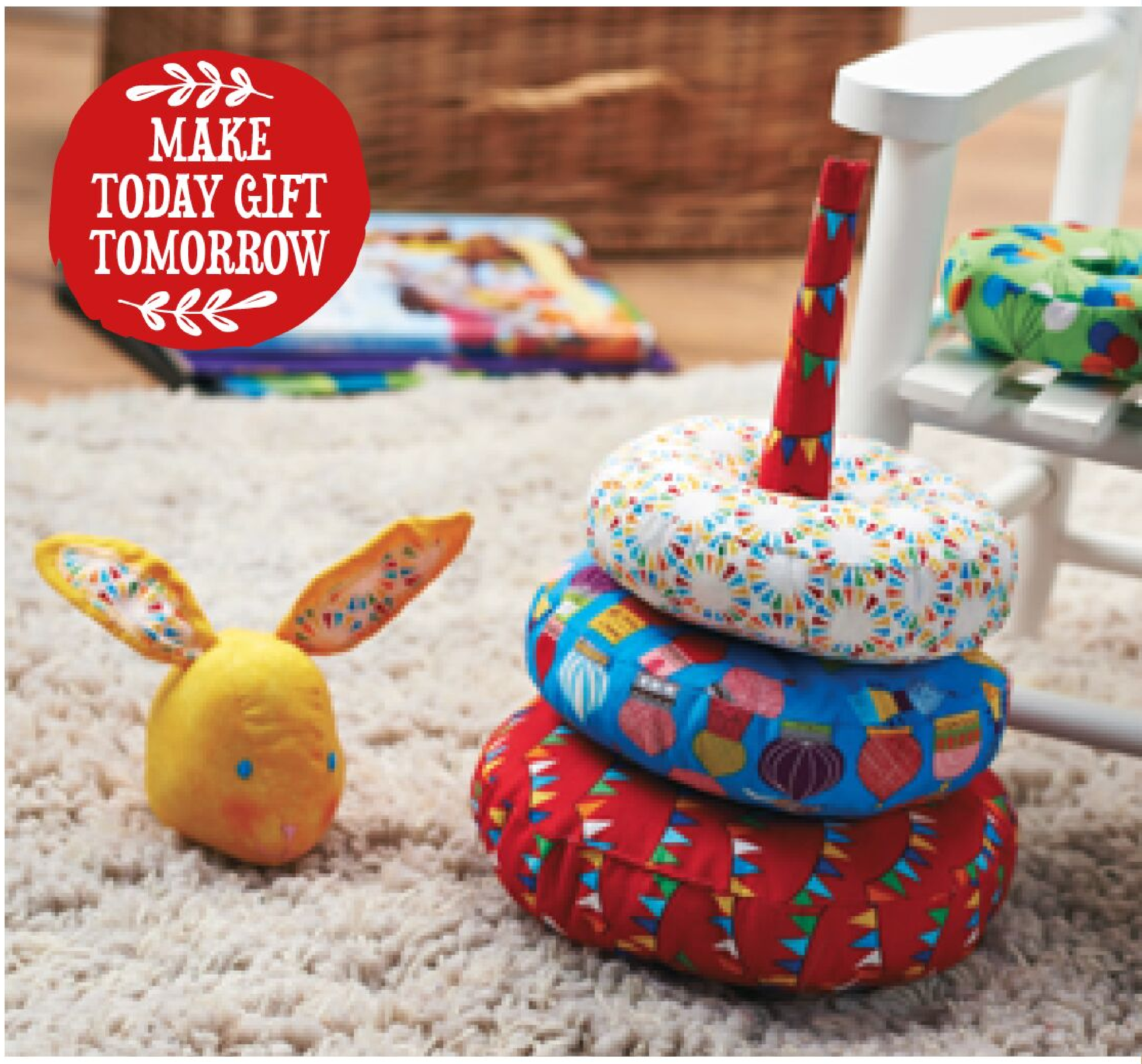
4 With right sides facing, slide the inner gusset, into the hole in the centre of a ring, aligning the crosses on both sides. Pin and tack so the gusset sits evenly inside the ring, then sew together using small back stitches. Fold over 1cm on the unsewn edge of the inner gusset and tack.

5 With right sides facing, and aligning the marks and notches, pin and tack the outer gusset to the ring. Sew all the way around. Pin, tack and sew the remaining ring to the other edge of the outer gusset. Fold in the clipped centre circle and tack. Turn the fabric right side out. You should have a drum shape with a chimney on top.

6 Stuff the drum through the small centre hole, pushing the filling out to the sides to create a smooth, rounded shape. When the drum is almost completely stuffed, poke your finger through the centre of the filling to allow the inner gusset to be pulled through the middle of the drum. Pin the two tacked edges together, ensuring the inner gusset is not twisted, and slip stitch closed. Repeat for the other rings.

7 Cut out the pole template from collar stiffening fabric or heavyweight interfacing, and printed cotton fabric. Fold the fabric over the top and sides of the interfacing, smooth, pin and sew 1cm from the edge. Fold the edge of the fabric covered interfacing over to form a narrow cone and whip stitch in place. Sew the top shut and stuff well. Fold the fabric at the bottom of the pole under 1cm, then make long stitches to gather. Pull tight and stitch closed. If desired, sew the pole to the largest ring to create a base.

8 Cut out the pieces for the bunny's head using the templates provided. Centre the inner ear pieces on the right sides of the ears, then sew in place using zig-zag or buttonhole stitch. With right sides facing, sew around the ear pieces leaving the bottom plus 2cm open, and turn right side out. Fold the edges at the bottom of the ears over each other and stitch down.



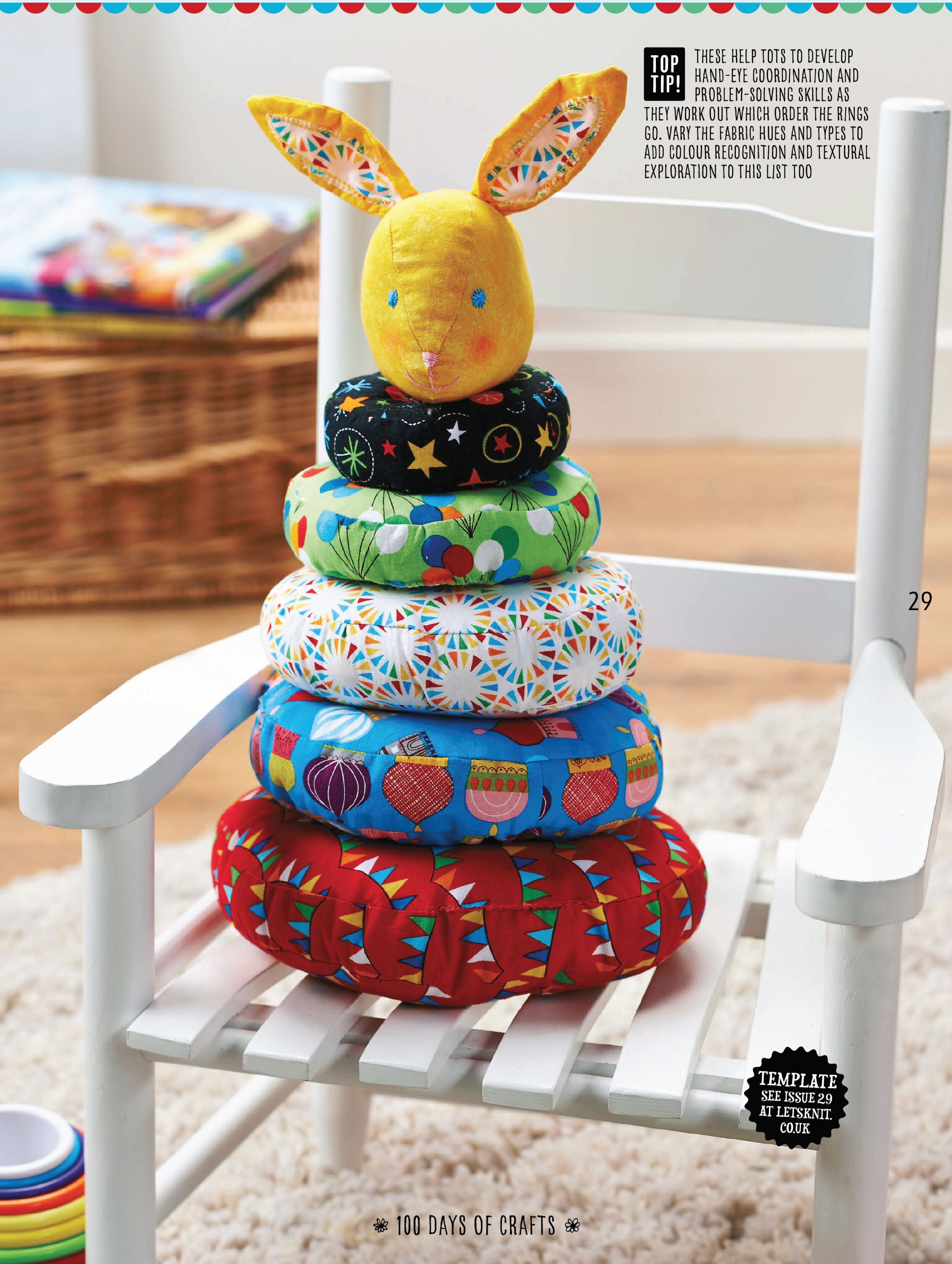
9 With right sides facing, pin the curved edges of the back of the bunny's head together, and stitch. With right sides facing, pin the gusset from the tip of the nose to the top of the face on both sides, and sew. Then, pin and sew the face pieces together from the tip of the nose down to the bottom of the neck.

10 Place the front of the ears against the face so that the stitches securing the fold over at the base of the ears are above the top of the head. Place the back of the head, right side down, over the face and ears, aligning the edges. Pin and sew. Turn the bunny head right side out, stuff, but leave a space the size of your thumb for the pole to fit snugly into the head. Fold under the neck edge by 1cm, make long stitches close to the folded edge, pull together and stitch closed. Push the neck fabric up inside the bunny head.

11 Using the images as a guide, embroider a triangular shaped nose in the base of the gusset, a smile and star spoked eyes. Using a cotton bud, pick up a very small amount of powdered blush, and gently rub it in a circular motion onto the bunny's cheeks.

WHY NOT TRY...

Why not add extra embellishments by sewing loops of ribbon into the seams of the rings?



TOP TIP! THESE HELP TOTS TO DEVELOP HAND-EYE COORDINATION AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS AS THEY WORK OUT WHICH ORDER THE RINGS GO. VARY THE FABRIC HUES AND TYPES TO ADD COLOUR RECOGNITION AND TEXTURAL EXPLORATION TO THIS LIST TOO

TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

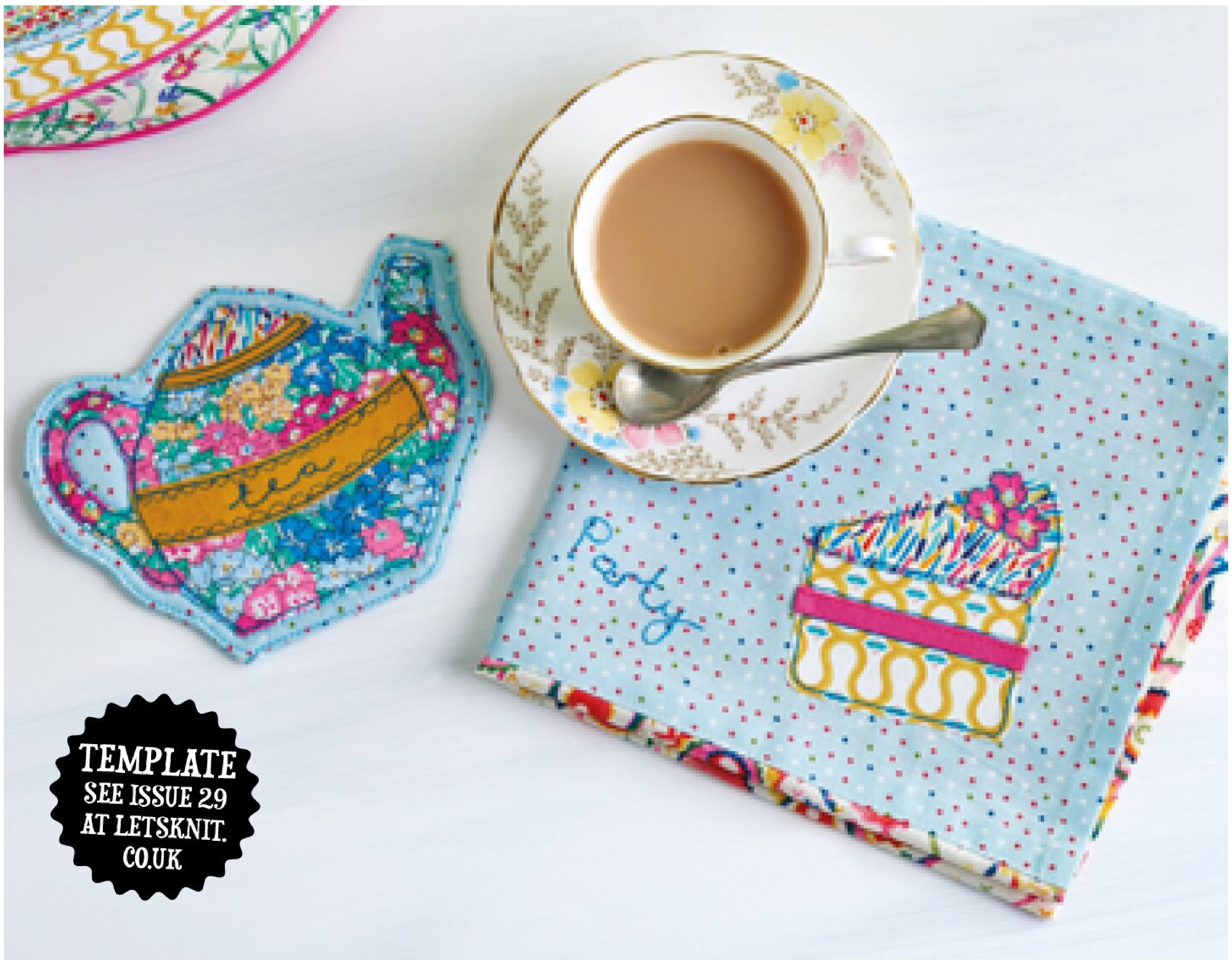
Tea party set

Serve your Elevenses in style with this spotty set that will bring a touch of occasion to your gathering

KIT LIST

★ Fabrics: mustard patterned cotton, selection of Liberty prints, plain mustard cotton, plain blue cotton, blue spotty cotton, lining ★ White circular coaster, 14cm ★ Pink bias binding ★ Mustard grosgrain ribbon ★ Iron-on interfacing ★ Wadding ★ Tissue paper ★ Acid-free glue

Tea cosy: 25cm x 34cm; Coaster: 12cm x 15cm



TEA COSY

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Using the tea cosy template, cut two from mustard patterned fabric, the front piece will be shorter than the back. Cut two full size from lining fabric and two from wadding. Trim one 7cm x 37cm piece from Liberty grass print fabric, back with iron-on interfacing and set aside. Use the template to cut out all the pieces for the teapot and cup and saucer, using a selection of fabrics, and back each with iron-on interfacing.

2 Back a 14cm circular coaster with interfacing and pin it to the right-hand side of the main body of the tea cosy. Secure in place with bright pink thread. Iron on the reverse. Place all the teapot pieces as shown, using pins or acid-free glue to hold them in place. Stitch using a teal coloured thread. Add a decorative stitch to the teapot. Iron on the reverse. Repeat for the cup and saucer. Trace 'favourite tea' from the template onto tissue paper. Pin in place, stitch over the paper and then tear it away. Stitch the steam lines from the cup.

3 Fold 38cm of bias binding in half lengthways and run a line of stitching down it to hold it together. Pin across the bottom of the tea cosy front on the right side so that the line of stitching you have just sewn is 1cm from the raw bottom edge of the tea cosy. Stitch it across. Fold the bottom raw edge under and pin it across the front of the grass print fabric interfaced earlier, allowing for a 1cm seam. Secure in place by stitching across the mustard fabric just above the pink bias tape. Iron on the reverse.

4 Pin together a lining piece wrong side up then a piece of the wadding and the finished front right side up. Hand or machine quilt around the edges of the teapot, coaster, cup and saucer, just beneath the pink bias tape and around some of the flowers on the grass print fabric. Stitch around the curve just in from the edge and set aside.

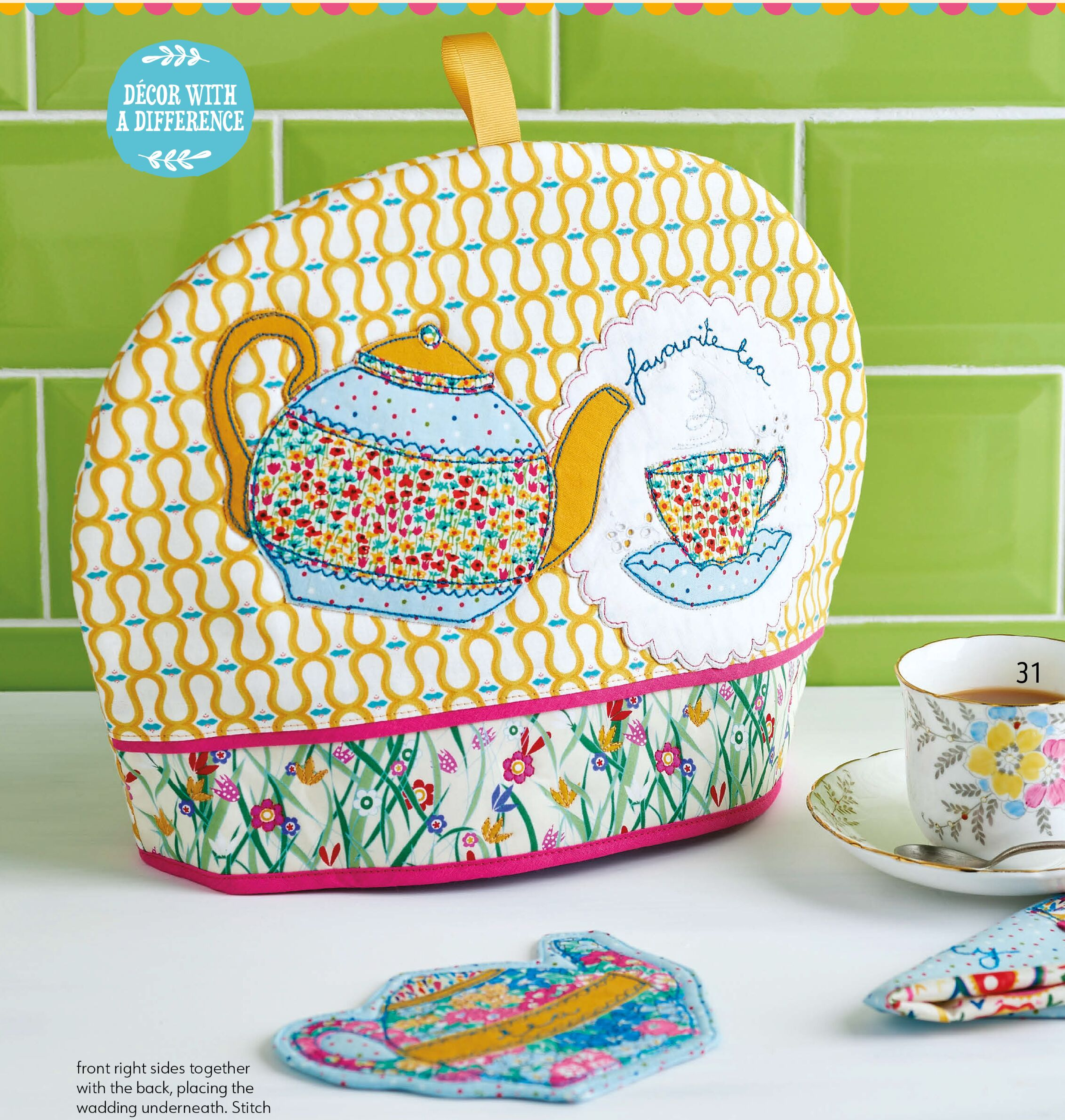
5 To create the back, pin together the lining wrong side up then the wadding then the back right side up. Quilt across the pattern of the fabric and stitch around the curve. Place the front and back right sides together and make a mustard grosgrain ribbon loop. Place in between the front and back with the raw edges sticking out. Stitch bias binding around the curved edge. Turn right side out. Starting at the back, stitch pink bias tape around the raw bottom edge.

TEAPOT COASTER

1 Using the coaster template, cut two from blue spot fabric, reversing the template for the back. Set the back aside. Cut out the teapot shape in floral Liberty print fabric, the middle band in mustard and the two lid pieces. Back them all with lightweight interfacing.

2 Pin the teapot to the middle of the blue spot fabric leaving an equal border all the way round. Use an acid-free gluestick to secure the middle band and lid pieces, allow to dry. Stitch all the details using teal thread stitching over it twice. Use the same technique as before to write the word 'tea'. Iron on the reverse.

3 Cut a piece of wadding the same size. Pin the finished



front right sides together with the back, placing the wadding underneath. Stitch all the way round with a 5mm seam allowance, leaving a gap at the bottom for turning. Clip into the curves, trim away the excess wadding and turn right side out. Iron flat and topstitch 3mm in from the edge using blue thread, closing up the gap. Quilt around the teapot to finish.

NAPKIN

1 Create a napkin from two rectangles, French seaming them together.

2 Use the template to cut out the cake pieces. Place as shown, stitching with teal thread. Embroider 'mad hatter's tea party' wording to finish.

TOP TIP! USE AN EMBROIDERY HOOP WHEN STITCHING LETTERS TO HOLD THE FABRIC TAUT

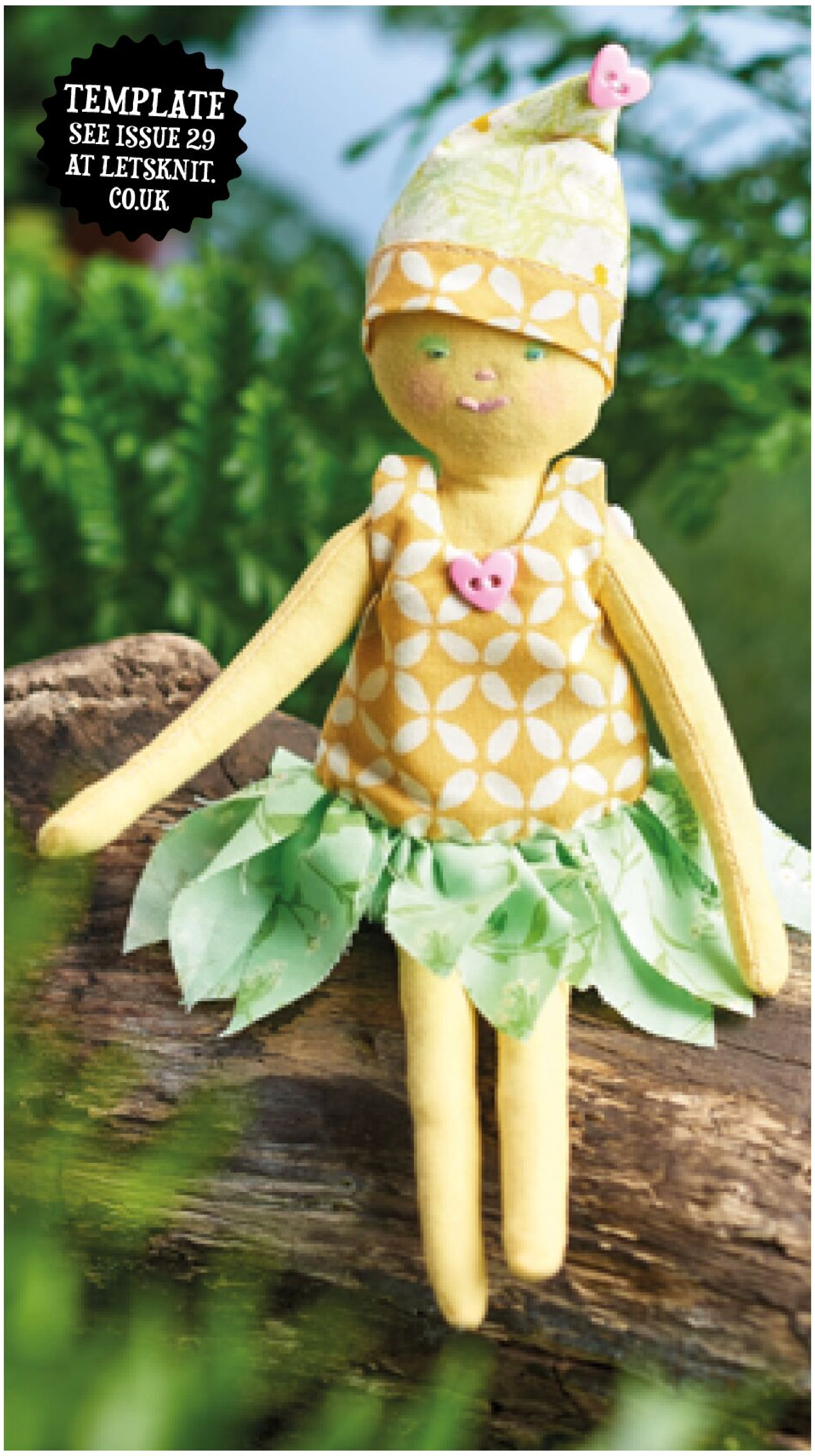
DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Woodland pixie

Meet Primrose, our cute and cheerful creature who'll win over your little one's heart

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton: printed, plain ★ Quilt wadding, 100% cotton, lightweight ★ Fibre filling ★ Felt, pink ★ Embroidery threads ★ Buttons ★ Snap fasteners ★ Coloured pencil ★ Tape measure ★ Scissors



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

PIXIE

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut two body pieces from plain cotton, adding a 5mm seam allowance to the template. Sew all the way around leaving a gap in the side of the doll. Clip curves, turn out and stuff. Fold in the edges of the gap, slip stitch closed. Cut two pairs of arms, sew together leaving gaps in the backs of the upper arm. Stuff and close the gap.

2 Fix the arms to either side of the body by button jointing using two small buttons stitched through all of the pieces. Pull the thread taut but not too tight. Embroider the face with two strands of thread and add shading with soft coloured pencils.

3 Snip four bodices and pair up, right sides together. Sew around the armholes, straps and neckline of each. Open up the layers and sew the two sets together on the side seams, right sides together. Fold up and press 5mm along the bottom edge of both layers. Snip several leaf shapes without a seam allowance. Gather the top edge of each slightly and hand stitch to the edge of the inside layer of the bodice. Fold the outer layer over the raw edges of the leaves and slip-stitch to cover them. Add small snap fasteners and a small button to the dress.

4 Cut fabric, 5cm x 11cm, and a contrasting piece, 7.5cm x 11cm. Sew together on one long edge and fold in half, wrong sides together, then press. Topstitch along the seam line to create the hat band. Fold in half in the other direction, right sides together, and cut using the template. Sew up the back seam, turn out and slip onto the doll's head, securing with a couple of stitches at the back. Sew a small gather at the side to tilt the top and add a small button.

DOOR

1 Using the templates, cut four rectangles of patterned fabric and two of wadding. Sandwich wadding between two pieces of fabric, right sides facing out, and zig-zag stitch around the edges to bind. Place the two remaining pieces of fabric right sides together, on top of the other piece of wadding and draw the aperture onto the template in the centre.

2 Sew along the line, cut away the centre and turn one layer of fabric through the hole to the other side. Press and topstitch around the doorway before zig-zag stitching the edges of the rectangle together. Place the two rectangles right sides together and sew around the edges. Clip corners and turn out through the doorway.

3 Cut the door pattern from two layers of fabric, right sides together, and one of wadding. Layer together and sew around the edge, leaving a gap in one long side. Trim excess wadding from the seam allowance and turn out through the gap. Press and topstitch the edges, folding in the raw edges of the gap and sewing closed.

4 Hand stitch the left hand side of the door to the doorway with a small over sew stitch. Add small flower buttons to represent hinges and a handle. Fix a snap fastener to the back of the door and the frame underneath the handle button. Cut a heart shape from felt and over sew to the top centre of the door with two strands of embroidery thread.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

MAKE ME LOVE ME

"Remember to switch out the heart buttons for embroidery if Primrose is flying off to a tiny tot"

CORINNE BRADD DESIGNER

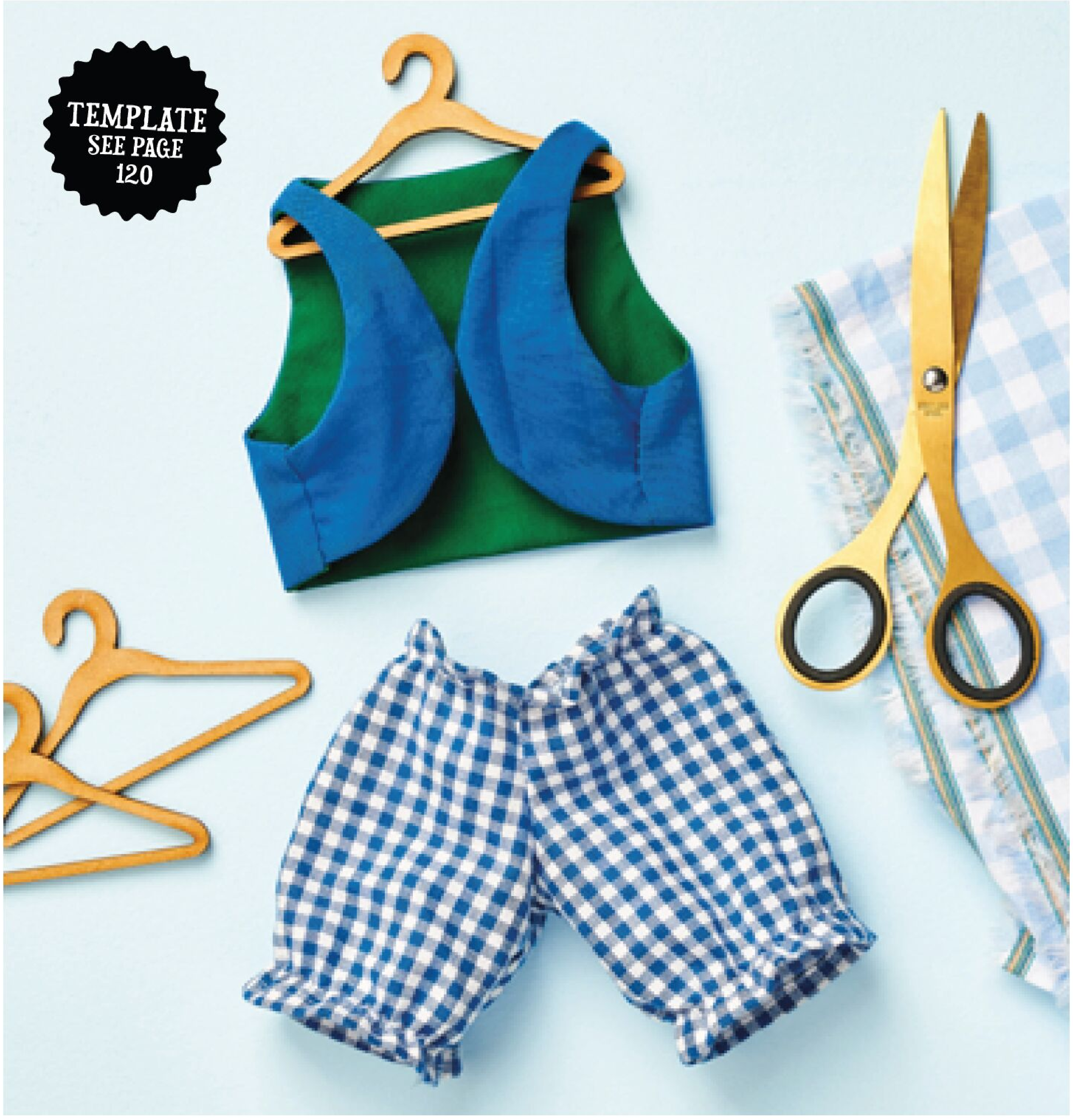
DESIGNER **SOPHIA PALMER**

Teddy outfit

Give a favourite toy a makeover with this smart set

KIT LIST

★ Patterned and plain cotton fabric ★ Thread: machine, hand sewing ★ Clear or narrow elastic ★ Sewing needle



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

WAISTCOAT

1 Using the templates provided on the pattern pages, cut out two front panels and one back panel on the fold. All seam allowances are 5mm unless stated otherwise. Sew the two front panels right sides together onto the back panel only, joining the shoulder seams.

2 Pin the waistcoat out flat onto a large piece of cotton fabric and cut it out. Sew the long neckline seam only, then stitch the bottom of the back waistcoat panel. Finally, sew the armhole edge only, so the four side seams remain open.

3 Cut into all curved edges, taking care not to snip through your stitches. Use a safety pin or loop turner to help pull the front panels through the shoulders and out of the sides to turn it the right way around.

4 Press flat, then press the back panel side seams inside by the 5mm seam allowance. Tuck the front panel side seams inside the pressed back side seams and pin. Use a needle and thread to sew the side seams together using a ladder stitch.

BLOOMERS

1 Using the templates, cut two pairs of trouser panels from your chosen fabric, with a 5mm seam allowance (unless stated otherwise). Sew two pieces, right sides together, along the curved crotch seam, then repeat for the other pair.

2 Lay the two pairs on top of one another, right sides together, and sew the outer side edges only. Use an iron to press a small 5mm rolled hem onto both bottom edges. Sew into place. Repeat the small hem around the waist.

3 Zig-zag stitch with clear elastic along the bottom two edges just above the hem. Pull the elastic taut as you sew so it gathers up. Repeat the elastic around the waist in the same way, overlapping the start and finish. Sew the inner leg seam, right sides together. Turn the bloomers right side out and finish.

NECKTIE

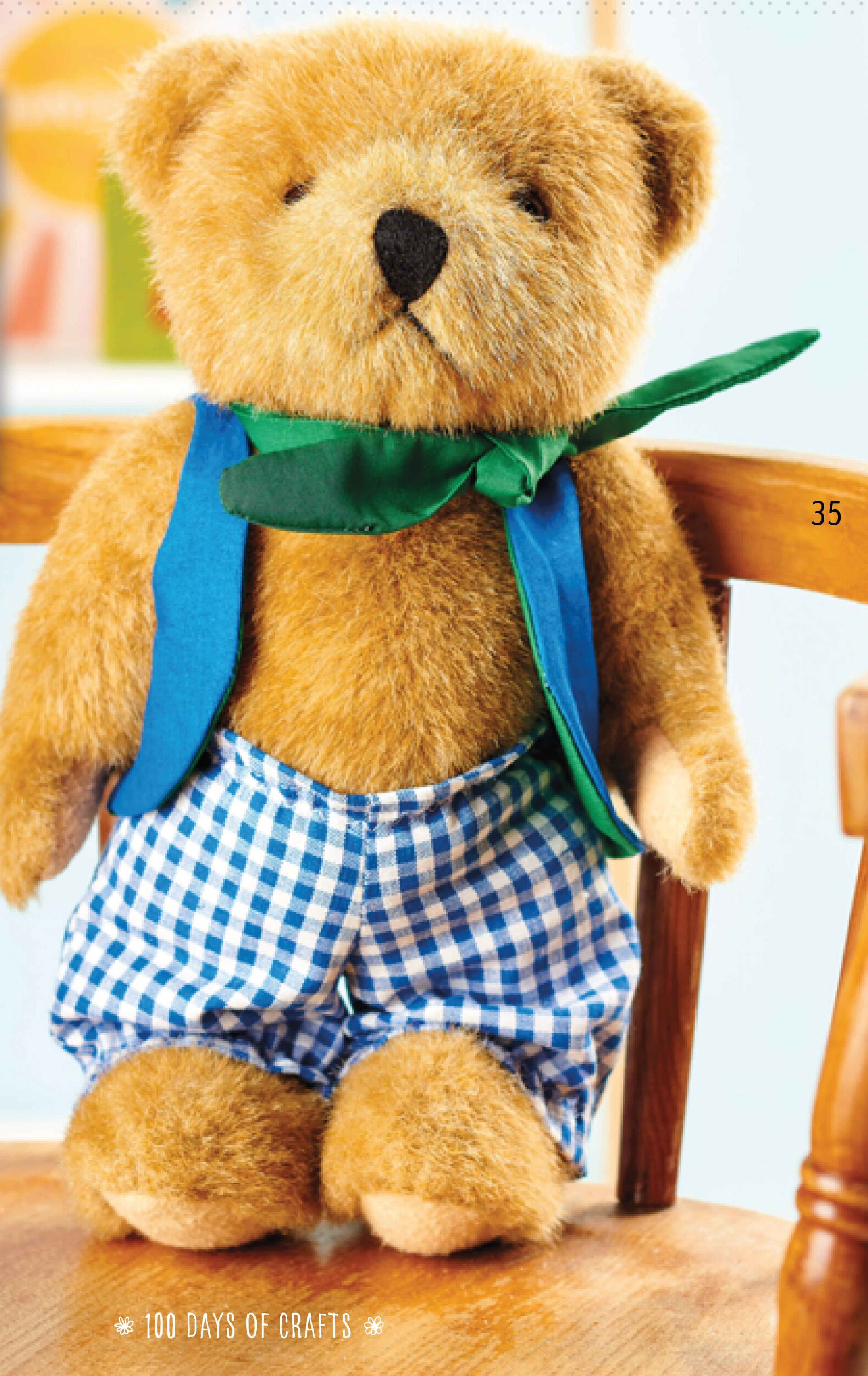
1 Cut a 6cm x 45cm strip of fabric; all seam allowances for the necktie are 10mm (unless stated otherwise). Fold the strip in half lengthways and pin. Draw a curved edge on each short end, 10mm away from the open long side, that finishes at the fold.

2 Sew the curved edge along the long open end and finish at the other curved edge, leaving a 5cm gap in the centre of the long edge. Trim any seam allowances and cut the curves before turning right way out through the gap. Press flat and sew up the gap by hand with a ladder stitch.

"Why not use scraps leftover from making children's clothes to give their teddy an adorable matching outfit?"

SOPHIA PALMER DESIGNER

STASH BUSTER



LADDER STITCH

You may have heard this called invisible stitch, as it is such a neat way to close a seam. Unlike normal slip stitch where the thread is worked diagonally from one side of the seam to the other, very short stitches are worked directly across from each other so that the length of thread between joining stitches is carried along the inside of the fold. Before the thread is pulled tight, the stitches look like ladder rungs across the opening

DESIGNER **CHLOE HAILWOOD**

Doll sling

Little ones can practise hands-on parenting while staying hands-free, thanks to this practical papoose

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: printed cotton, two fat quarters ★ Chalk ★ Wadding, 2oz, 35cm x 55cm ★ Press studs, two ★ Ruler ★ Knitting needle

NB: use 1cm seam allowance, unless otherwise stated

1 Download the templates at letsknit.co.uk, print and cut out. Using the templates, cut out a lining and an outer piece. From the remaining fabric, cut four rectangles for the straps, 9cm x 50cm each. For each of these straps, fold in half length ways and with right sides facing. Stitch halfway down the long 50cm edge, then leave an 8cm gap before continuing stitching to the end. Move the seam to the centre and stitch across both short ends. Turn through the 8cm gap to the right side, press, close the gaps with ladder stitch and set aside.

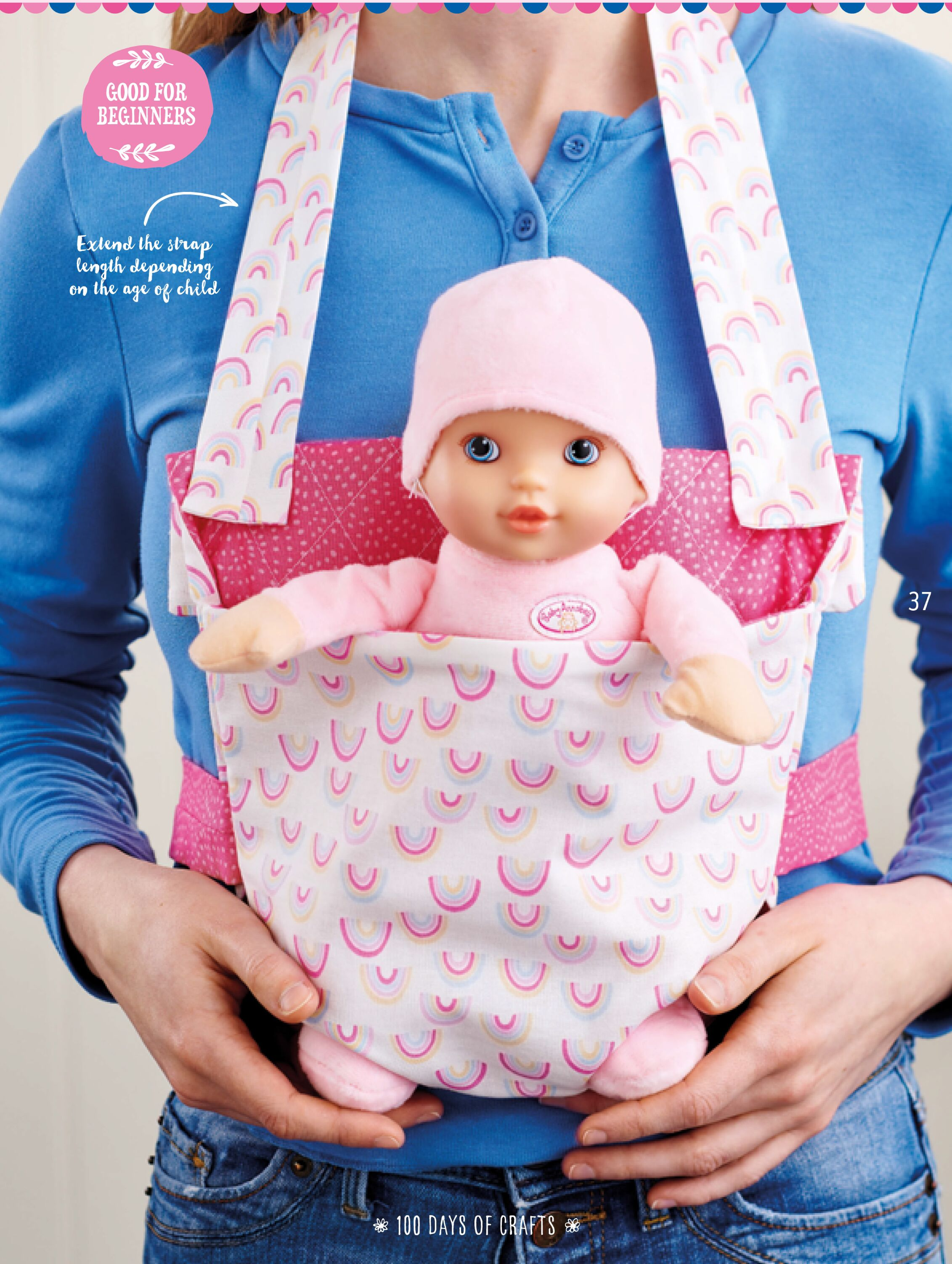
2 Lay the cut out lining piece over the wadding, with the right side of the fabric facing upwards. Tack together and use a ruler and chalk to mark diagonal straight quilting lines over the lining. Stitch over all these lines in a contrasting thread. Lay the lining and outer pieces on top of each other with right sides facing and pin. Trim the wadding roughly to the correct shape. Stitch all round following the line of the fabric and leaving a 10cm gap along the bottom edge B for turning through. Make snips in the seam allowance at the inverted corners and trim any excess wadding before turning through. Gently push out the corners using a knitting needle, then press and close the gap with ladder stitch.

3 Lay the sling flat with the outer fabric side facing upwards and with edge A at the top and edge B at the bottom. Pick up two straps, refer to the template and position and pin as shown. Match up each end of a strap with the edge of the sling and with the length of the straps facing inwards and crossing over each other. Tape or pin these lengths of the straps in the centre so they don't get caught when stitching up. Bring edge B upwards, with the folding point at the short 8cm edge and meeting up the curved edges of each side exactly. Stitch together down these short edges only, stitching through the strap ends and turn through to the right side.

4 With the front side of the sling facing upwards, fold the top edge A forwards and down by about 6cm and put a few stitches on the underside to hold in place. Stitch one side of a press stud to the end of one of the remaining straps and stitch the other press stud half to the reverse of the top edge of the sling. Repeat with the opposite side and second strap, then fix the straps in place.

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

TOP TIP! BEFORE STITCHING, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SIZE OF THE PREFERRED DOLL OR TEDDY, AND MAKE A LARGER OR SMALLER TURN DOWN ON THE FRONT OF THE SLING TO SUIT



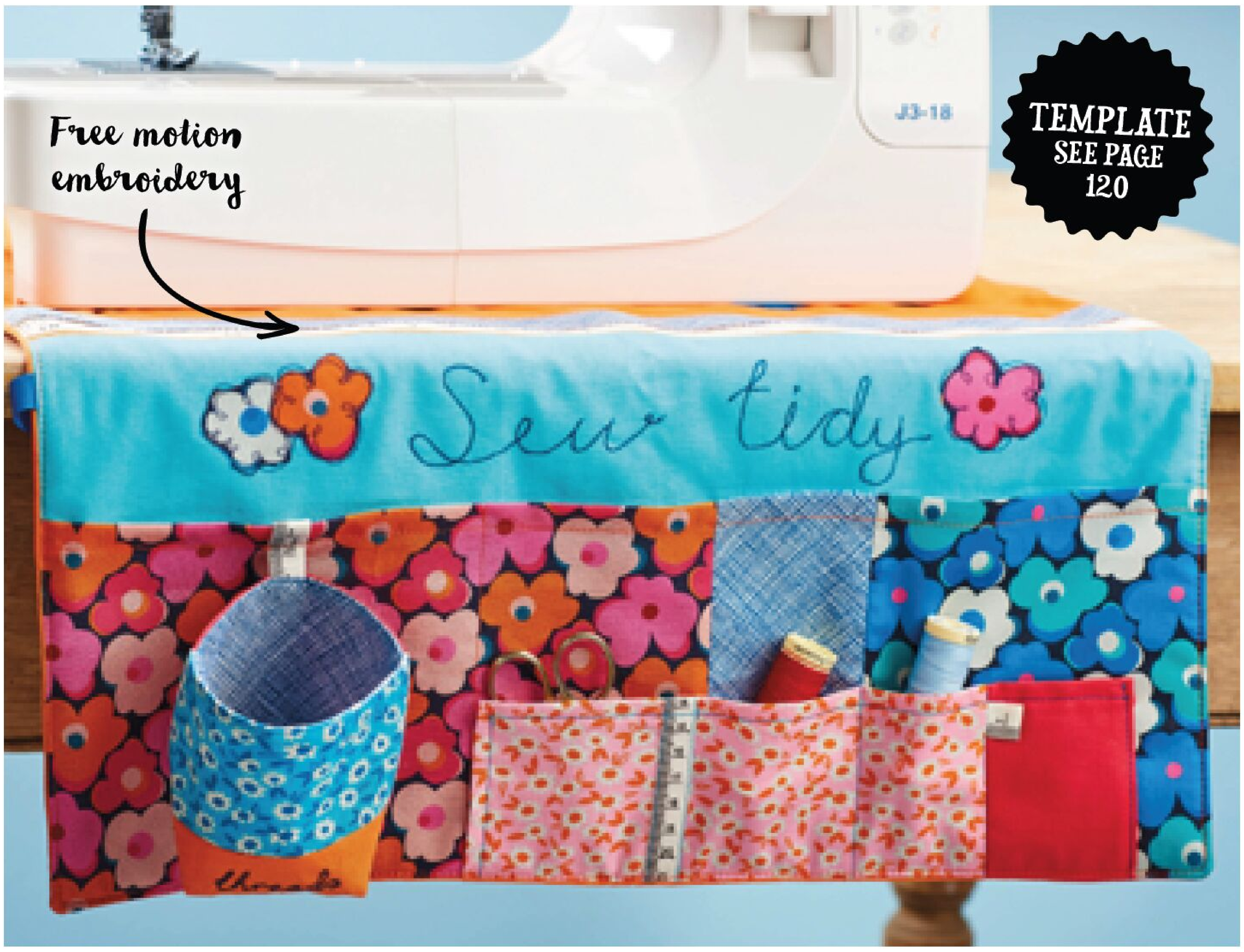
GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

Extend the strap length depending on the age of child

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Machine cover

Keep your essentials to hand and ensure your sewing machine is dust-free with help from this ingenious cover



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton: plain orange, turquoise and pink; floral print, blue, pink; blue crosshatch ★ Wadding ★ Lightweight iron-on interfacing ★ Cotton tape: royal blue, 1cm wide, one; decorative, 2cm wide, one ★ Tissue paper

1 Trace the templates from the pattern pages. Cut a square of plain orange fabric, 44cm square, and a rectangle of plain turquoise fabric, 23cm x 44cm. Pin both of the pieces together along the long edges and sew a 1cm seam across. Iron the seam open on the reverse. Working 3mm up from the seam, sew a length of decorative tape across the orange fabric. Iron on the reverse. Cut blue crosshatch fabric, 6cm x 44cm. Fold each long edge in by 1cm and iron to crease. Pin in place on the orange fabric, 5mm up from the top of the decorative tape. Machine stitch 2mm in from the fold lines. Iron on the reverse.

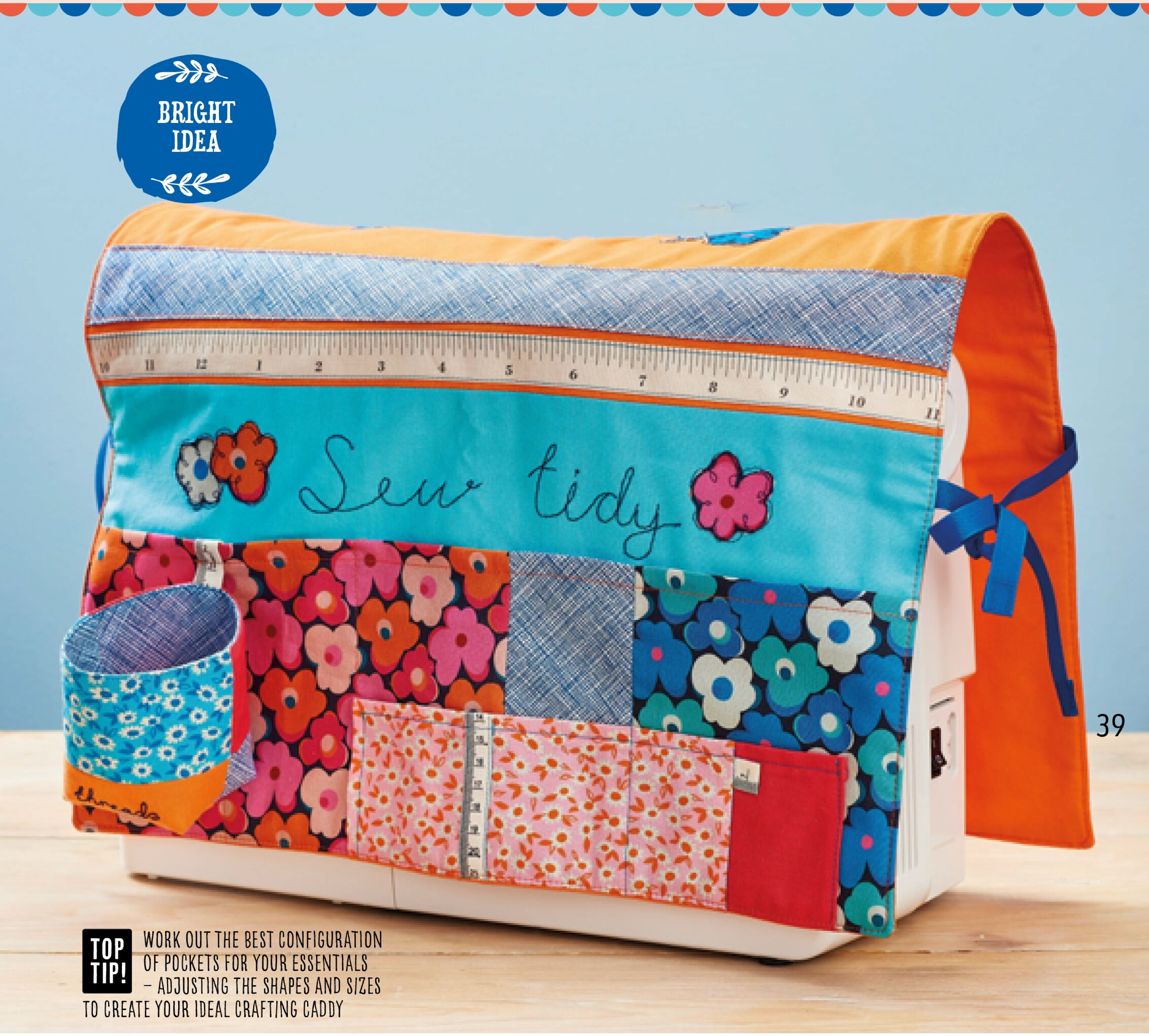
2 To make the pocket section, cut pink floral print fabric, 17cm x 26cm. Snip blue crosshatch fabric, 8cm x 17cm, and large blue floral print, 15cm x 17cm. Pin the right hand end of the pink floral piece, right sides together, with the left side of the blue crosshatch piece along the 17cm sides. Sew a 1cm seam. Pin the left-hand end of the blue floral fabric to the right hand side of the crosshatch fabric and sew a 1cm seam. Press open on the reverse. Fold the long top edge over onto the wrong side by 5mm then by 1cm. Sew the seam across and press.

3 Snip small pink floral fabric, 10cm x 20cm, and plain pink fabric, 7cm x 10cm. Pin them right sides together on the 10cm edges. Sew a 1cm seam, 2cm from the top. This should trap in the raw ends of a 5cm folded length of decorative tape. To divide the pocket, sew along both edges of a piece of decorative tape, allowing an extra 2cm overhang at the top. Iron a 1cm fold onto the wrong side at both ends of the small pocket section. Fold the top edge over onto the wrong side by 1cm, then again by 1cm, remembering to catch in the raw end of the decorative tape. Sew the seam across.

4 Pin the finished small pocket piece onto the larger main pocket section, and sew down both folded ends, along one edge of the vertical decorative tape and down the seam where the plain pink fabric joins the small pink floral material. Iron on the reverse. Pin the front pocket section, right side up, along the bottom of the main body of the right side up cover, so that all of the raw edges match. Machine stitch a 5mm seam down both sides and across the bottom. Iron on the reverse.

5 Use the template to trace 'sew tidy' onto tissue paper. Pin it in place centrally across the plain turquoise mid section, then machine embroider over it, tear the tissue away and sew over it again. Fussy cut some of the large flowers, back with interfacing and sew in place. Stitch a few random single flowers onto the other end of the orange cover, which becomes the back. Iron on the reverse.

6 Lay the cover right sides together with a piece of orange fabric cut the same size. Lay on top of a piece of wadding which is cut slightly bigger all the way around, pin together and fold in half. Cut four lengths of royal blue tape to 35cm. On one raw end of each, fold over twice and sew to secure the end. Slip the tapes in between the two fabric pieces 13cm down from the fold on each side of the front and back, so the remaining raw end of each sticks out. Unfold the cover and sew a 1cm seam all the way around, leaving a 12cm gap for



TOP TIP! WORK OUT THE BEST CONFIGURATION OF POCKETS FOR YOUR ESSENTIALS – ADJUSTING THE SHAPES AND SIZES TO CREATE YOUR IDEAL CRAFTING CADDY

turning. Trim across the corners and trim the excess wadding. Turn right side out, push all the corners out, iron, then topstitch all the way around 3mm in from the edge, catching in the unstitched gap as you go.

7 Snip pieces of the small blue floral print, plain orange, plain pink and crosshatch blue fabric to 7cm x 13cm wide. With a 5mm seam allowance, stitch the blue floral piece to the orange and the pink to the crosshatch across the width. Press the seams. Using the tissue method, sew 'threads' onto the orange fabric, centrally at the top. Pin the front and back right sides together, then sew a 5mm seam down both sides and across the bottom. At each bottom corner, make a mark with an erasable pen on the side seam, 3cm up. Pull both sides apart and flatten so the side seam meets the bottom seam. At the pen mark, stitch across, then cut the resulting excess triangle shape piece off to 5mm.

8 Make a lining from two pieces of crosshatch, 13cm square. Back with interfacing. Pin right sides together and sew a 5mm seam down both sides and across the bottom. Repeat the previous step on both corners. Turn it right side out and push it into the outer of the bin which is wrong side out, push down into the corners, making sure the side seams align and trim them both to the same height.

9 Cut the decorative tape, 10cm long, fold in half and with the loop pushed down in between the two fabrics at the central back with the raw ends sticking out, pin and sew a 5mm seam around the top leaving a gap for turning. Turn right side out by pulling everything through the gap and pushing the lining well down into the thread bin. Close the gap and topstitch all the way around. Fold the loop for hanging over the big floral pocket top and stitch in place.

WHY NOT TRY...

Place a large pocket on the back of the cover to keep machine instructions handy

DESIGNER **AMANDA WALKER**

Jasmine rag doll

Dressed in a pretty print frock, this little lady really stands out with her cute space buns hairdo

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: brown with two-way stretch; printed cotton; cream jersey ★ Wool, brown ★ Felt, black ★ Embroidery thread, pink ★ Toy filling ★ Long needle ★ Fabric glue

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut out in brown fabric: two pairs of arms, two pairs of legs and one pair of head and body pieces. From cream jersey, cut out one pair of socks on the fold. In the printed cotton fabric, snip out a 10cm x 40cm rectangle for the skirt, plus one bodice and one collar.

2 Divide the arms and legs into two sets, then stitch with a 3mm seam allowance, right around the arms and legs leaving a small gap on a straight part of the seams. Clip all the curved parts of the seam, then turn the arms and legs right side out. Stuff each arm and leg and close the gap by hand slip-stitching.

3 Sew the head and body pieces together leaving the straight edge at the top of the head open. Clip the seam allowance, turn the head and body right side out and stuff. Make a running stitch around the top opening of the head, pull up the thread tightly around the stuffing, then stitch the two edges together.

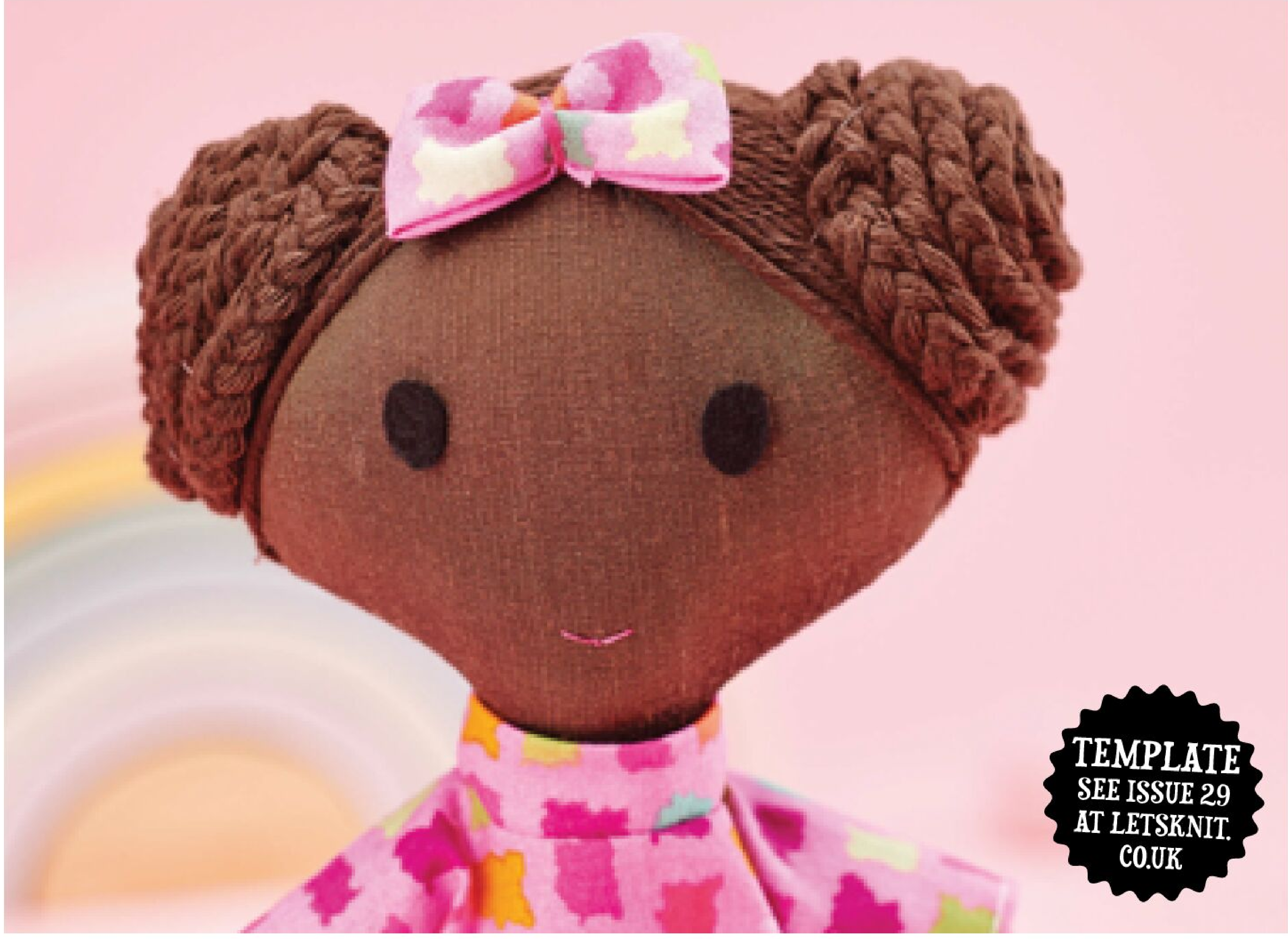
4 Using the strong thread and needle attach the legs to the base of the body as indicated on the template; pass the needle through the body, then out on the opposite side and attach the other leg. Sew back and forth a couple of times then pull the thread tight and fasten off securely. Repeat to attach the arms.

5 To make the hair, measure halfway down the side of the head then carefully wrap the yarn around her head, being careful not to pull it tight. Anchor each round by pinning, then hand stitching each round level with the side seams of the head. Carry on wrapping and stitching until the top of the head is filled. Make two buns for the sides of her head by cutting six 80cm lengths of yarn and plaiting them together. Wind the plait into a coil, secure with hand stitches, then hand stitch the bun to one side of her head. Repeat for the opposite side of her head. Slightly hook up and sew the centre of the wrapped yarn on the head to create the effect of a centre parting.

6 Mark the positions of the facial features then stick two small ovals of black felt in the eye positions. Using pink thread, embroider a 'V' shape to form the mouth. To make the socks, fold the tops over twice then fold in half. Stitch the curved edges together, catching the ends of the folds in the seam. Turn right side out and pull onto the doll's feet.

7 To make the dress, turn up and sew a narrow hem to one of the long edges of the skirt rectangle. On the opposite long edge make two narrow lines of gathering stitches. On the bodice, turn in and sew a narrow hem to both ends of the sleeves. Fold and press the collar in half lengthways and stitch the raw edges around the neck edge of the bodice. With right sides facing, fold the bodice over across the shoulder and sleeve edges, then sew the under sleeve edges together.

8 Clip the curved seam and turn right side out. Pull up the gathering stitches of the skirt to the same length as the base of the bodice. Evenly distribute the gathers, then sew the skirt to the bodice. Turn in and stitch the raw centre back edges and a little way into the skirt, then sew the centre back edges of the skirt together. Turn the skirt right side out and dress the doll. Cross the centre back edges over one another and make a few hand stitches to keep the dress fastened. Make a bow from a scrap of printed fabric and sew to the centre front edge of her hair.



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

TOP TIP! IF GIFTING THE DOLL TO A YOUNG CHILD, SEW THE FELT EYES IN PLACE FOR EXTRA SECURITY

DESIGNER **ELLEN KHARADE**

Pumpkin pincushion

Sew a trio of gorgeous gourds to adorn your sewing space

KIT LIST

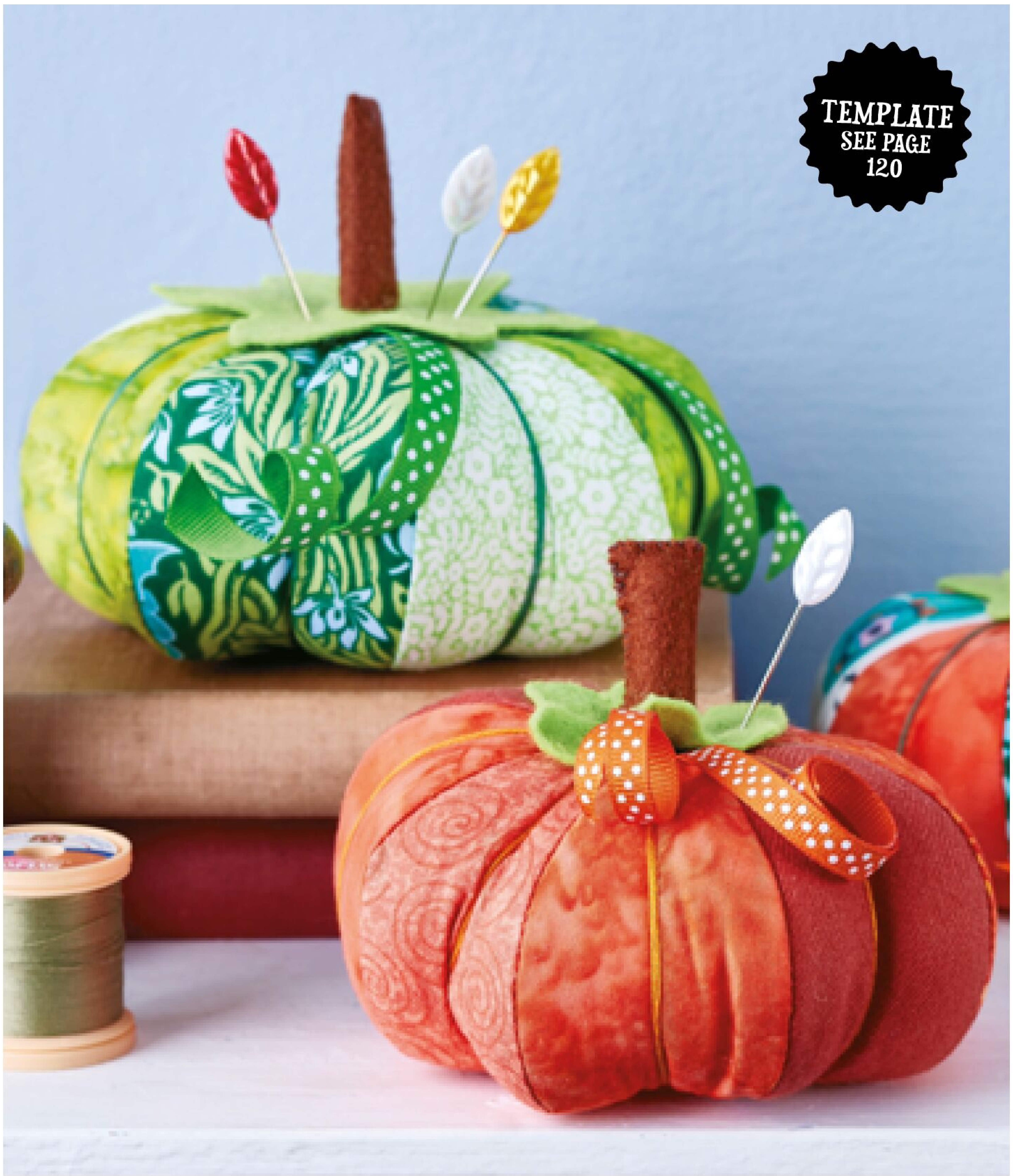
★ Cotton fabrics, selection
★ Felt, green, brown
★ Spotty ribbon, orange, green ★ Masking tape
★ Green embroidery thread
★ Toy stuffing ★ PVA glue
★ Paintbrush ★ Cling film

Small pumpkin: 10cm;
Large pumpkin: 13cm

1 Trace the large pumpkin template from our pattern pages, transfer onto card and cut out. Place onto the back of green fabric and draw around the shape using a pencil. Trim, and repeat with seven other complementary fabrics.

2 Arrange the fabrics, then with right sides facing, pin two lozenge shapes together and machine stitch down one side using a 6mm seam allowance. Finger press all the seams open. Continue pinning and sewing sets of two together, then machine stitch two sets to create two halves with four sections in each. Pin together and machine stitch all the way around the shape, leaving a 2cm gap at the base for stuffing. Turn out and stuff.

3 Thread a needle with a double length of green thread and sew the gap closed. Thread a long needle with a length of green embroidery thread and sew in between each of the segments to create the pumpkin shape, starting at the top and ending at the base. Use the small flower template to cut a bloom from green felt. Sew a 1cm green button to the centre then attach to the base, stitching right through the pumpkin.



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

4 Wrap a length of cling film around a large cylindrical object, such as a paintbrush and secure the ends with masking tape. Tightly wrap with spotty ribbon in a spiral formation and secure the ends with masking tape. Coat with PVA and leave for an hour to dry. Carefully remove the ribbon and trim to size. Sew two lengths of this spiralled ribbon to the top of the pumpkin.

5 Using the large template, cut out a flower from green felt. Make a slit in the shape as indicated. Trim a 3.5cm x 5cm rectangle of brown felt and fold it in half vertically. Sew around the top and side with small stitches and stuff well. Push this stalk through the slit and sew to the back of the flower. Position on top of the pumpkin and hand sew securely into place with small stitches.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

RESCUE YOUR REMNANTS

TOP TIP! MAKE A CROP OF PUMPKINS USING THE SMALLER TEMPLATE, ALTERING THE COLOUR SCHEME AS YOU GO

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Purse set

Keep your essentials safe and stylish with this glasses case and matching coin purse

KIT LIST

★ Cotton print fabric, assorted designs ★ Pins ★ Patterned cotton lining ★ Coordinating thread ★ Felt wadding ★ Zips, 15cm ★ Piping hook ★ Split rings

SPECTACLES CASE

1 Copy the templates from our pattern pages and cut out. Prepare a case shape on the fold of outer fabric, lining and wadding, adding a 5mm seam allowance around the edges. Open the zip and place one edge face down onto the right side of the outer fabric, starting with the open end at the top corner.

2 Curve the zip to line up with the edge of the fabric and tack in place, leaving the excess zip hanging in the centre. Turn over the other side of the zip and tack to the other curved edge in the same way. Place the lining over the outer, right sides together, then pin the wadding over the top.

3 Stitch along the curved zip edges from the top corners to the X marked on the pattern. Turn the fabric out and push the hanging zip end through the gap between the marks. If it is overly long, stitch over the teeth, 1cm below the gap to secure, then cut away the excess. Trim the wadding and fold in the raw edges of the gap, then topstitch the zip seam.

4 Cut patterned fabric, 4cm x 7cm, fold in half lengthways and stitch into a tube, right sides together. Turn out and finger-press flat. Pin one end to a raw edge of outer fabric, 1cm below the zip. Keeping the zip open, lift the outer and wadding fabric from the lining. Stitch together along the raw edges, incorporating the small strap as you do so.

5 Pin and stitch the lining together, leaving a 5cm gap along the straight edge. Turn the case out through the gap. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and topstitch closed, before pushing the lining into the case. Fold in the raw edge of the small strap to a point and slip a large split ring onto it, then hand-sew the pointed edge to the end of the zip to neaten.

PURSE

1 Copy the templates from our pattern pages and cut from outer fabric, lining and wadding, then make up in the same way as the sunglasses case. However, this time, cut a piece of fabric for the strap, 3cm x 30cm, then fold in half lengthways, right sides together.

2 Sew down the edge, using a 5mm seam allowance, then use a piping hook to turn the tube right sides out. Finger-press and fold in half to make a loop. Pin both ends to one edge of the outer fabric, 1cm below the zip, then stitch the outers together.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

TEMPLATE
SEE PAGE
120

"Choose brightly coloured zips to give the project a touch of designer style"

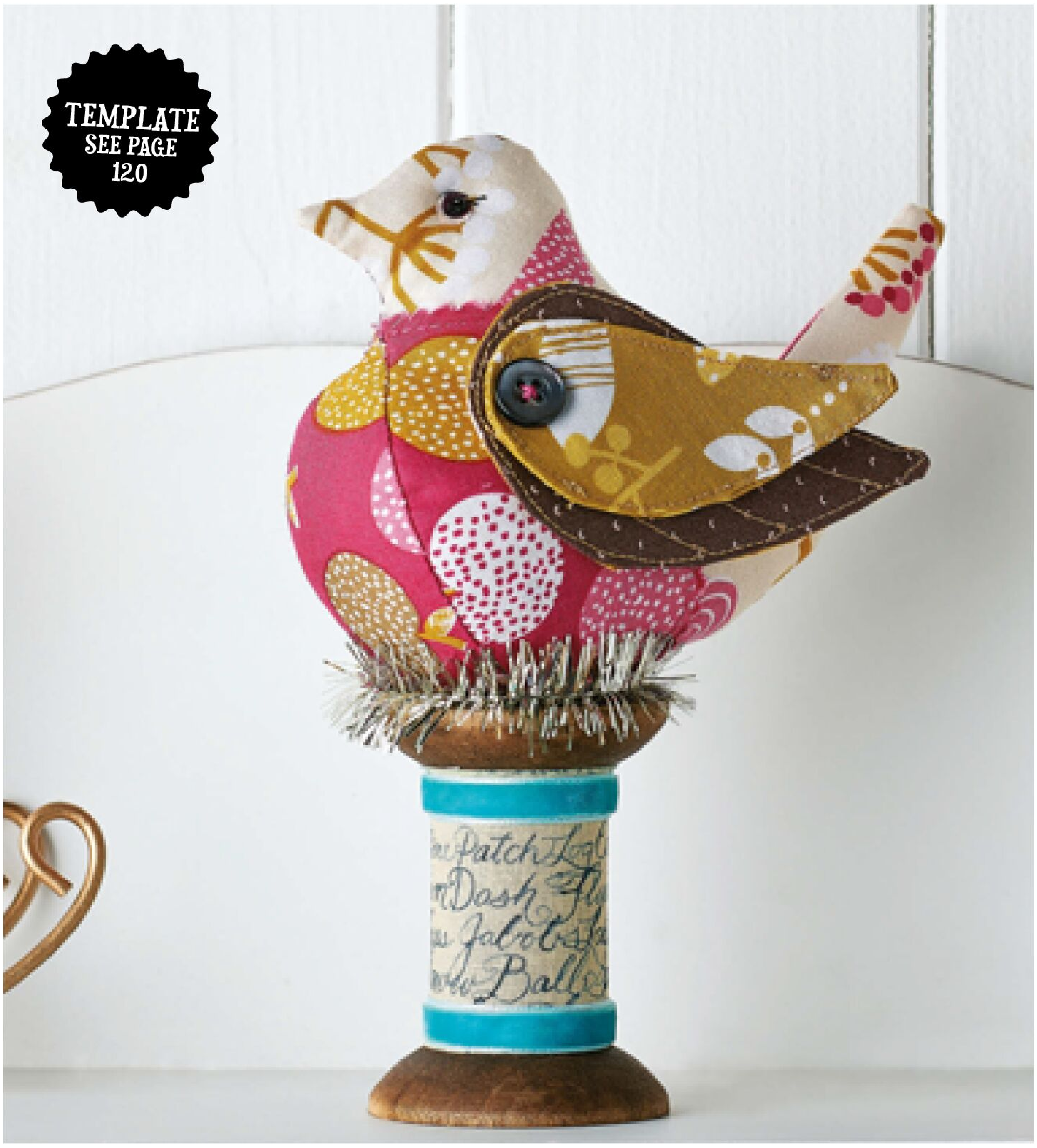
CORINNE BRADD DESIGNER

PRACTICAL
AND PRETTY

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Rockin' robins

Perched atop wooden spools for a vintage vibe, these stylish birds would make sweet decorations at Christmas



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: Retro Orchard range by Dashwood Studio, Tossed Apples; Orchard; Seedlings; cotton, printed: script; brown; linen, natural ★ Ribbon: velvet, blue; glitter, silver ★ Buttons, small, four ★ Beads, small, black, six ★ Spools, wooden, 7cm, two ★ Bell, silver, small ★ Tinsel, silver ★ Glue: PVA; acid-free ★ Toy stuffing ★ Interfacing, lightweight

Linen robin: 10cm x 17cm;
Tinsel robin: 12cm x 17cm

LINEN ROBIN

1 Using the template provided on our pattern pages, trim two robins from linen fabric, cutting the tail across the dotted line. Cut three breast pieces from apple print. Set one aside. Reverse one of the robins, then stick one breast shape, right side up, to each of the robin pieces using acid-free glue. The pointed ends should line up with points A and E on the template.

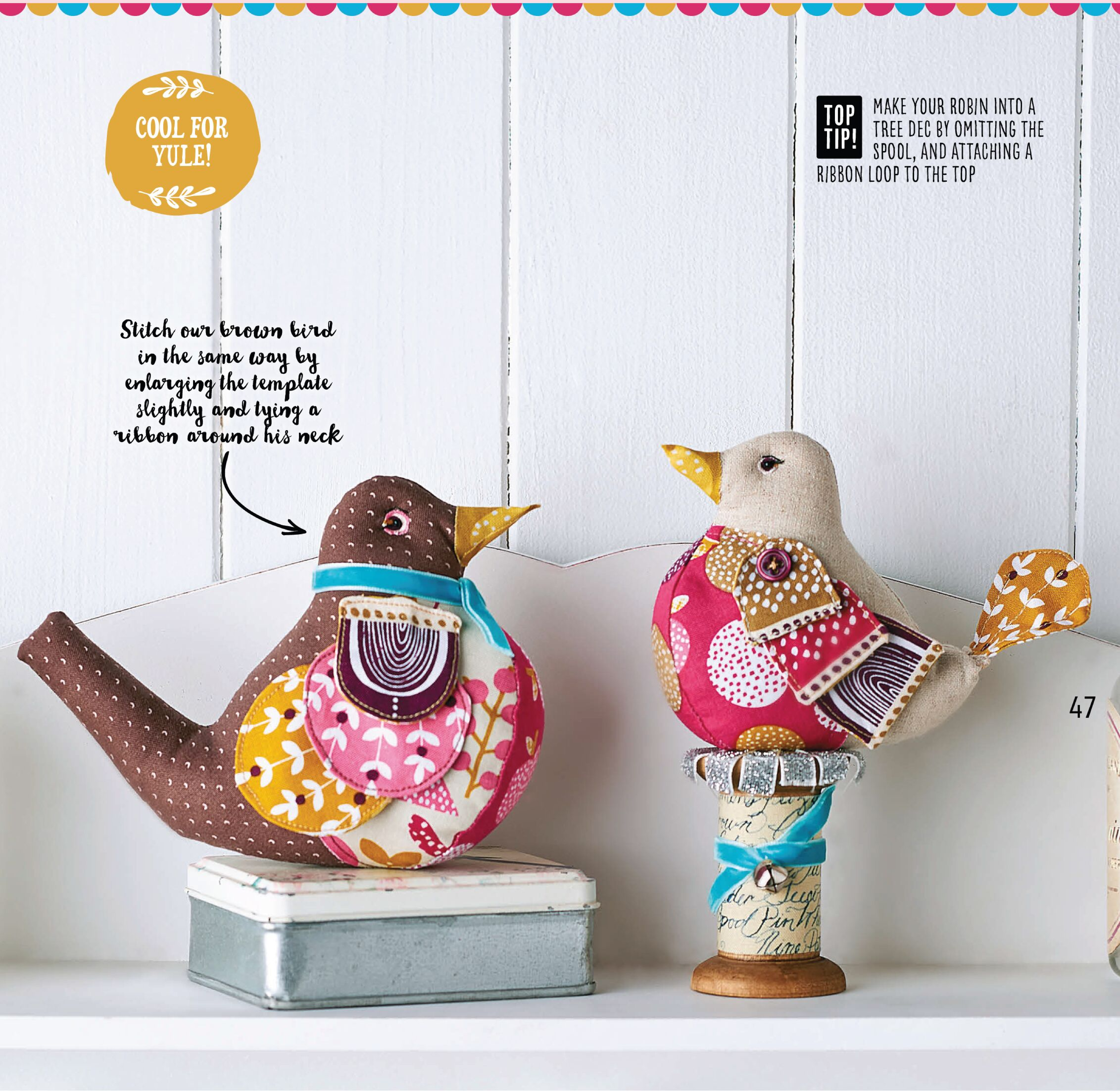
2 Once dry, machine stitch around the top curve of the breast, 5mm from the edge, leaving the side running along the chest unstitched. Iron on the reverse. Pin the robin pieces right sides together and sew from point A to B, and from point C to D. Leave the sections from B to C and D to E unstitched.

3 Pin the third breast shape you set aside onto one of the breasts on the body with right sides together. Stitch along the open edge. Turn the robin over and line the edges of that breast up with the other side of the third piece. Stitch along the edge. Trim around the curves with pinking shears and turn out.

4 From yellow print, cut two tails. Pin right sides together and stitch around the edges, leaving a gap at the bottom for turning. Clip into the curve, turn out and topstitch close to the edge. Add decorative stitching to highlight the print. Insert the robin's tail into the gap in the fan. Take care to turn in the raw edges of the linen. Stitch to secure. Stuff the robin firmly and stitch up the gap. Set aside.

5 From orchard print, cut out six semi-circular wings in three different colours. Pin each one to a backing fabric, right sides together, and stitch around the curve. Clip the curves and turn out. Tuck the straight raw edge in, press and topstitch all the way round. Pin three to each side of the robin and secure in place with a few hand stitches. Sew a small button to the top one on each side.

6 For the eyes, glue a small circle of fabric on the head and hand stitch a small black bead onto it, pulling the



COOL FOR YULE!

TOP TIP! MAKE YOUR ROBIN INTO A TREE DEC BY OMITTING THE SPOOL, AND ATTACHING A RIBBON LOOP TO THE TOP

Stitch our brown bird in the same way by enlarging the template slightly and tying a ribbon around his neck

thread tightly to give shape. Fix a yellow piece of fabric around the beak.

7 Glue script print fabric around a wooden spool. Adhere velvet ribbon across the middle, attach a bell and tie in a knot using the photo as a guide. Cut small lengths of silver ribbon and glue to the top of the spool. Once dry, use PVA glue to secure the robin to the top. Allow to dry.

TINSEL ROBIN

1 Assemble the robin as before, this time not cutting the tail short. Use cream orchard print for the main body instead of linen. Stitch across the top of the tail instead of leaving a gap. For the wings, use the template to cut out two large wings from brown fabric and two from backing material. Trim two small wings from yellow print, as well as backing fabric.

2 Pin each wing to its backing, right sides together, and stitch all the way around, leaving a small gap for turning. Trim the curves and turn right side out. Press, turning in the remaining raw edge, and topstitch all the way around each of the four wings. Pin one large and one small wing to each side of the robin, and secure with a button by sewing through all the layers. Stitch the eyes as before.

3 Cover a wooden spool with script print fabric. Secure velvet ribbon around the top and bottom, then stick a circle of tinsel on top. Fix the robin to the spool using PVA glue.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

DESIGNER **LUCINDA GANDERTON**

Dave Dachshund

This pretty pooch can be a pincushion or toy, or even a paperweight if filled with dried beans

KIT LIST

★ Floral print cotton, fat quarter ★ Plain green fabric, 10cm x 20cm ★ Thread ★ Toy stuffing ★ Buttons ★ Pencil ★ Tape measure ★ Pins ★ Scissors ★ Fabric pen ★ Iron and ironing board

Size: 12cm x 27cm

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut two bodies, two bellies and two ears (with one of each reversed) and a head gusset from the floral fat quarter. Cut two ears (with one of each reversed) from green fabric. Note that the templates include a 6mm seam allowance.

2 Pin the plain and floral ears together in pairs with right sides facing. Machine stitch around the curved edges, leaving the top unstitched. Clip into the seam allowance at the curves, then turn. Ease out the seams and press lightly.

3 With the floral sides upwards, pin one ear to each side body and tack in place. Pin the head gusset to one body, between points A and B, with right sides facing. Stitch together along the seam line.

4 With right sides facing, pin the two bellies together around the legs, from C to D. Stitch, leaving a gap between E and F. Press the seam allowance open on either side of this gap.

5 With right sides facing, pin one side of the joined belly piece to the body with the gusset attached, matching points C and D. Machine stitch between these points leaving the seam allowance

GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

at each end unstitched.

6 Pin and tack the second body in place, with right sides facing, carefully matching the edges. Stitch all the way around, then clip into the inside curves so that they will open out properly.

7 Turn right side out and ease out all the seams. Stuff gently through the gap, using a pencil to push small clumps of filling to the tip of the tail and into the head. Slip stitch the gap securely.

8 Sew small buttons to the side of the head where indicated and fix a large one to the tip of the snout. If gifting to a small child, embroider the eyes and nose instead.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

SYLKO
D464
CITRON

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Lionel Stitchie

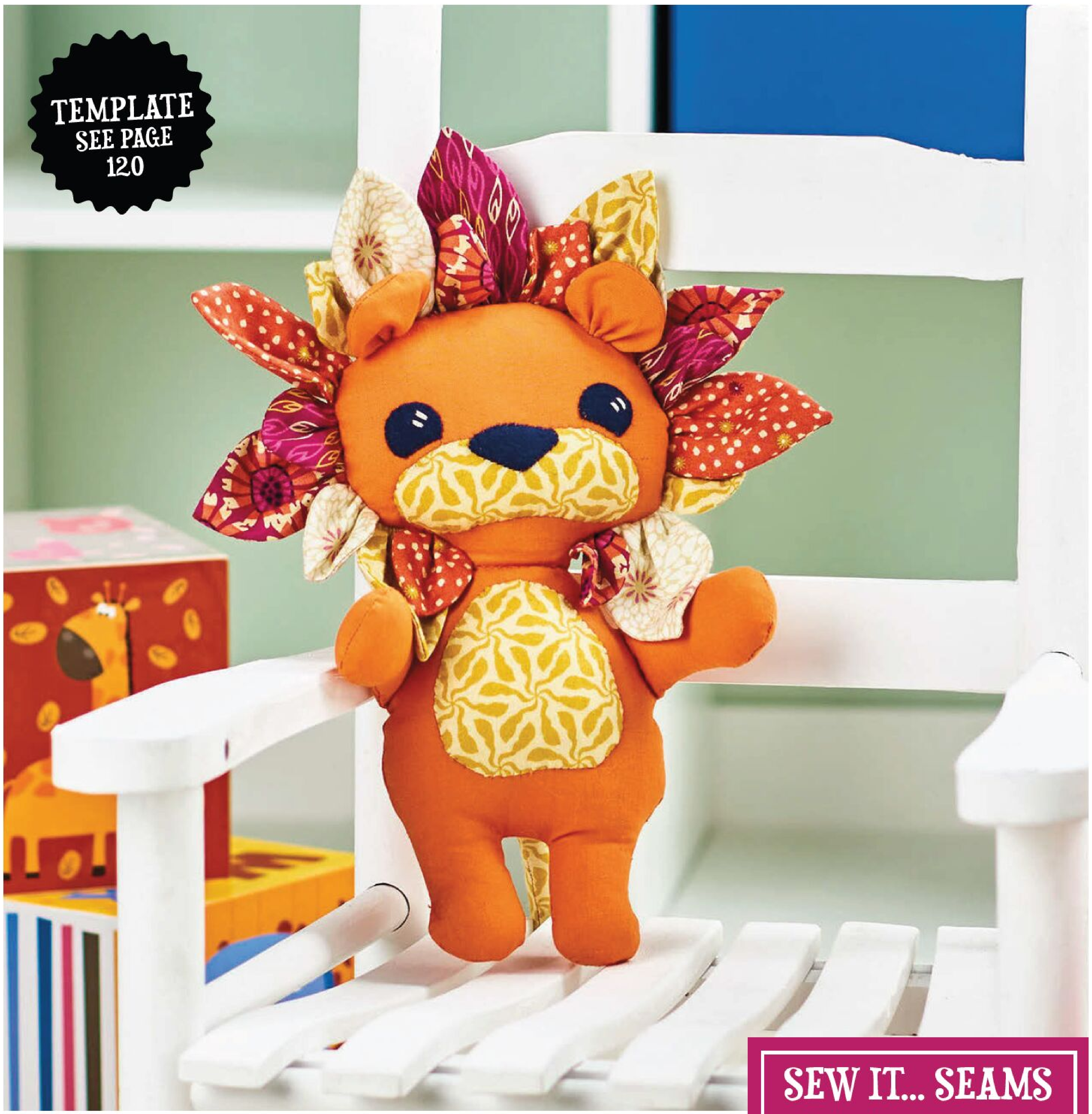
Say hello to our friendly lion – he's so easy to make too

KIT LIST

- ★ Printed cotton, fat quarters
- ★ Plain cotton, orange
- ★ Felt, navy
- ★ Toy stuffing

Size: 23cm x 32cm

NB: use 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated


TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

1 Copy the templates from our pattern pages. Cut the main body pieces from plain orange cotton, adding a 5mm seam allowance. Sew the arms, right sides together, in pairs, turn out and lightly stuff. Tack the ends of the arms closed.

2 Pin the body pieces right sides together. Insert the arms between the layers, before sewing all around, leaving the neck open. Clip the curves and corners before turning right sides out. Turn in 5mm around the neck and tack before stuffing.

3 Cut ten pairs of both petal shapes from printed cotton and sew right sides together, leaving the flat bottom edge open. Clip the curves, turn right sides out and press. Put one large petal aside, then gather the bottom edges of the rest with running stitch.

4 Trim two plain orange head pieces. Tack the gathered petals around the edge of one head, ensuring the petal tips point towards the centre of the head. Pin the second head over the first and sew all around, leaving the neck open. Turn out so the petals create a mane. Stuff the head well and slip the open neck inside the tacked neck edge of the body. Slip stitch the head in place, adding more stuffing if necessary before closing up the seam.

5 Snip four ear pieces and sew together in pairs, leaving the bottom edge open. Fold in the raw edges and gather with small running stitch before slip stitching to the head. Cut muzzle and chest pieces from yellow printed fabric, fold under 5mm around the edges and slip stitch to the lion. Add a little stuffing under each piece before closing the seam. Cut eyes and nose from navy felt and oversew in place, adding white stitches as highlights to each eye.

6 Cut a 4cm x 15cm strip of yellow printed fabric and sew into a tube. Lightly stuff the leftover petal shape before gathering the gap with running stitch. Turn in 5mm at both ends of the tube. Insert the gathered end of the petal into one end and oversew in place. Use a knitting needle to lightly stuff the rest of the tube and oversew the open end to the centre back of the lion as a tail.

SEW IT... SEAMS

Snipping at intervals along a seam allowance is vital for a smooth curved edge. Clipping concave curves allows the material to stretch further, while removing V-shaped notches from convex curves prevents material bulking. Cut diagonally beside corners to remove excess fabric. Snip closely, but being careful to ensure you don't cut through your stitching

MAKE ME
LOVE ME

DESIGNER **CHERYL OWEN**

Bear playset

Make your very own bear family, complete with removable outfits and a house to live in

KIT LIST

Bears: ★ Fabric: cotton, plain, brown, 40cm square; striped, red and white, 15cm square; floral, 10cm x 25cm; denim, lightweight, blue, 12cm x 20cm ★ Felt, brown, 4cm square ★ Buttons, 6mm: blue, four; yellow, four; turquoise, two ★ Ric-rac: blue, 4mm wide, 20cm; green, 8mm wide, 25cm ★ Ribbon, green, 6mm wide, 20cm ★ Bias binding, white, 12mm wide, 20cm ★ Press studs, 7mm, three ★ Ribbon rose, yellow, two ★ Thread: embroidery, black; sewing, coordinating ★ Needle: crewel; beading; sewing ★ Toy stuffing ★ Air-erasable pen

House: ★ Fabric, cotton: spotted, light blue, two fat quarters; floral: green, two fat quarters; red, 25cm x 35cm; striped, red, 4cm x 6cm; plain, jade, 9cm x 11cm ★ Fusible webbing, 9cm x 12cm ★ Interfacing, fusible, 18cm square ★ Wadding, lightweight, 40cm x 70cm ★ Thread: embroidery, blue; red; sewing, coordinating ★ Needle: crewel; sewing ★ Button, yellow, 1cm ★ Trim, pom-pom, yellow, 70cm

House: 15cm x 24cm;
Bears: 5cm x 14cm

BEAR

1 Download the templates at letsknit.co.uk and print. Cut two bodies and two heads on the fold, plus two pairs of legs and two pairs of arms from brown cotton. Trim two ears from brown felt. Snip the notches and mark the dart dots on the wrong side of the pieces with an air-erasable pen.

2 With right sides facing, pin and tack the ears to the heads, matching the notches. Fold the heads and bodies in half with right sides facing. Stitch the darts, taking a 6mm seam allowance, then press open. Stay stitch the neck edge on the bodies. Pin the heads then the bodies together in pairs, right sides together. Stitch the outer edges with a 6mm seam allowance, leaving the neck edge open. Snip the curves and finger press the seams open, then turn out. Stuff the head firmly. Sew a gathering stitch around the opening. Pull up the gathers tightly and secure.

3 Using the template as a guide, mark the position of the eyes. Thread a crewel needle with three strands of black embroidery thread and knot the end. Work a French knot for each eye. Make three straight stitches at the end of the dart for the nose. Draw a mouth with an air-erasable pen and embroider with straight stitches. Stuff the body firmly. Turn under the neck edge along the stay stitching. Insert the head into the body, matching the seams. Hand sew the neckline to the head, just above the gathering stitches.

4 With right sides facing, stitch the legs and arms together in pairs, leaving a gap for turning. Snip the curves and finger press the seams open. Turn out and stuff firmly, then slip stitch closed. Using the templates, mark the position of the dots on the body, legs and arms with a pin.

5 Thread a beading needle with sewing thread and knot the end. Sew a button (blue for Mr Bear and yellow for Mrs Bear) to one leg at the dot. With the leg facing forward, insert the needle through the leg, through one leg dot on the body, out through the dot on the other side of the body and through the other leg. Thread on a matching button and pull the thread. Insert the needle back through the button, leg, body, leg and out through the first button. Repeat several times to secure the legs to the body. Attach the arms in the same way. Using two strands of black embroidery thread, sew three straight stitches at the ends of the legs and arms for claws.

MR BEAR'S OUTFIT

1 Cut two jeans shapes from denim and one neckerchief from striped fabric. Fray the lower edge of the jeans for 2mm. Neaten the other edges with a zig-zag stitch or pinking shears. Mark the dots from the templates on the wrong sides of the fabric with an air-erasable pen. Fold each piece in half, right sides together, and place the back seams together. Stitch the front and back seams together, starting at the dot, taking a 6mm seam allowance, and leaving the front open. Snip the curves. Press under 1cm on the left-hand front edge above the dot. Stitch 6mm from the pressed edge to form the fly. Lay the front edge over the pressed edge and stitch 1cm up from the bottom of the fly.

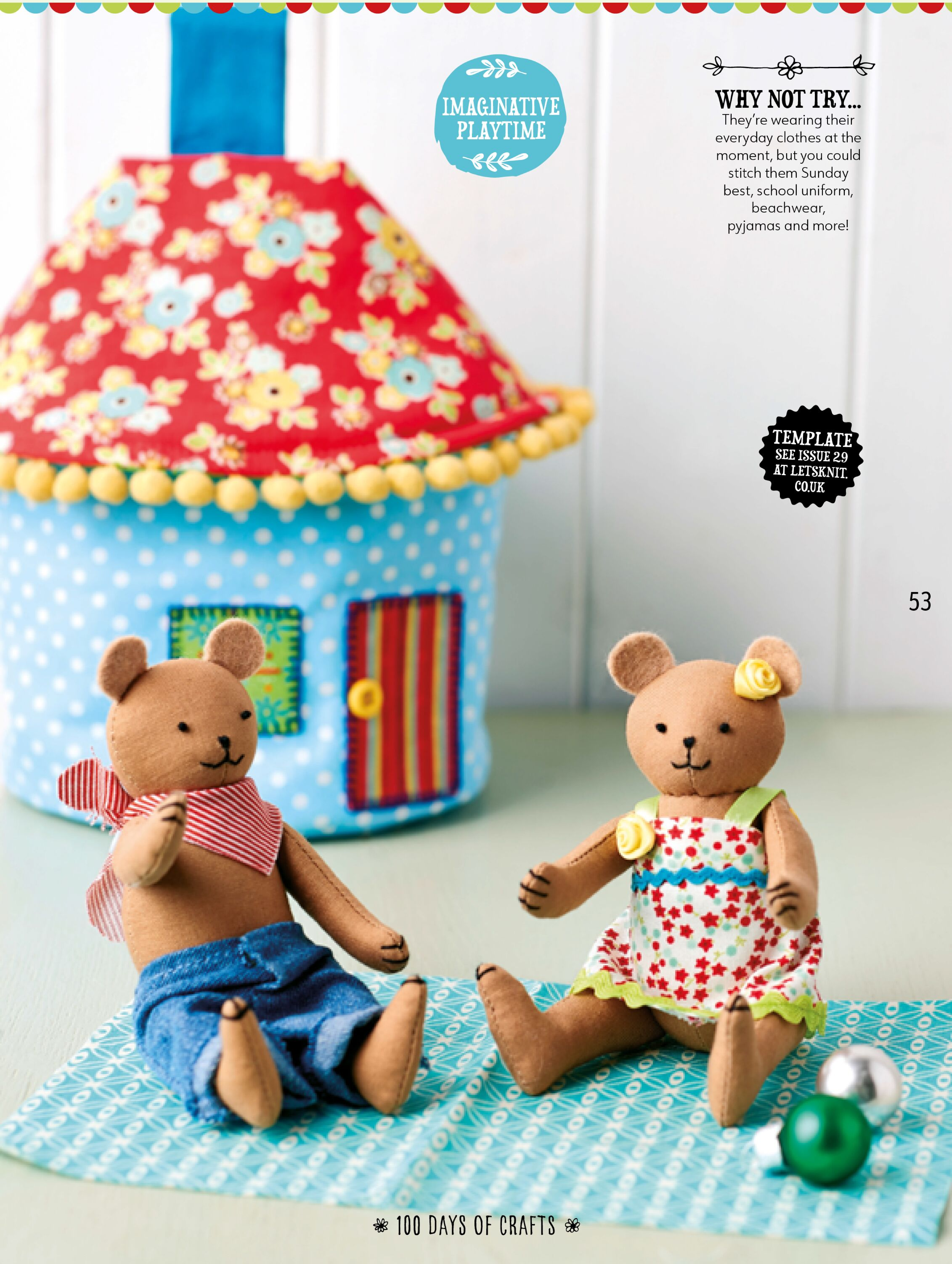
2 With right sides facing, stitch the long side edges of each leg, taking a 6mm seam allowance. Finger press the seams towards the back. Press under 6mm on the upper edge and stitch in place. Turn the jeans right side out. Cut two small squares of denim. Fold over each side and stitch. Sew the squares to the back of the jeans as pockets, leaving the top edge open. Slip the jeans onto the teddy. Overlap the fly and fasten with a press stud. Turn up the bottoms. Tie the neckerchief around the teddy's neck.

MRS BEAR'S OUTFIT

1 Cut one dress on the fold from floral fabric. Press under 6mm on the lower edge of the dress and stitch in place. On the right side, pin and stitch green ric rac along the lower edge. Cut 20cm of green ribbon in half. Using the template, mark the dots on the right side of the dress with an air-erasable pen. Pin a piece of ribbon to each dot, right sides facing.

2 Take 20cm of bias binding and open out one long edge. With right sides together, pin the binding to the dress' upper edge, and stitch along the fold line. Snip the curves and turn the binding to the inside. Pin to the wrong side of the dress and stitch close to the top edge.

3 On the right side, pin and stitch blue ric-rac along the lower stitch line where the bias binding is attached. Wrap the dress around Mrs Bear, overlapping the back edges. Slip the ribbon ends under the dress and pin in place. Sew turquoise buttons in the position marked by the



IMAGINATIVE PLAYTIME

WHY NOT TRY...

They're wearing their everyday clothes at the moment, but you could stitch them Sunday best, school uniform, beachwear, pyjamas and more!

TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
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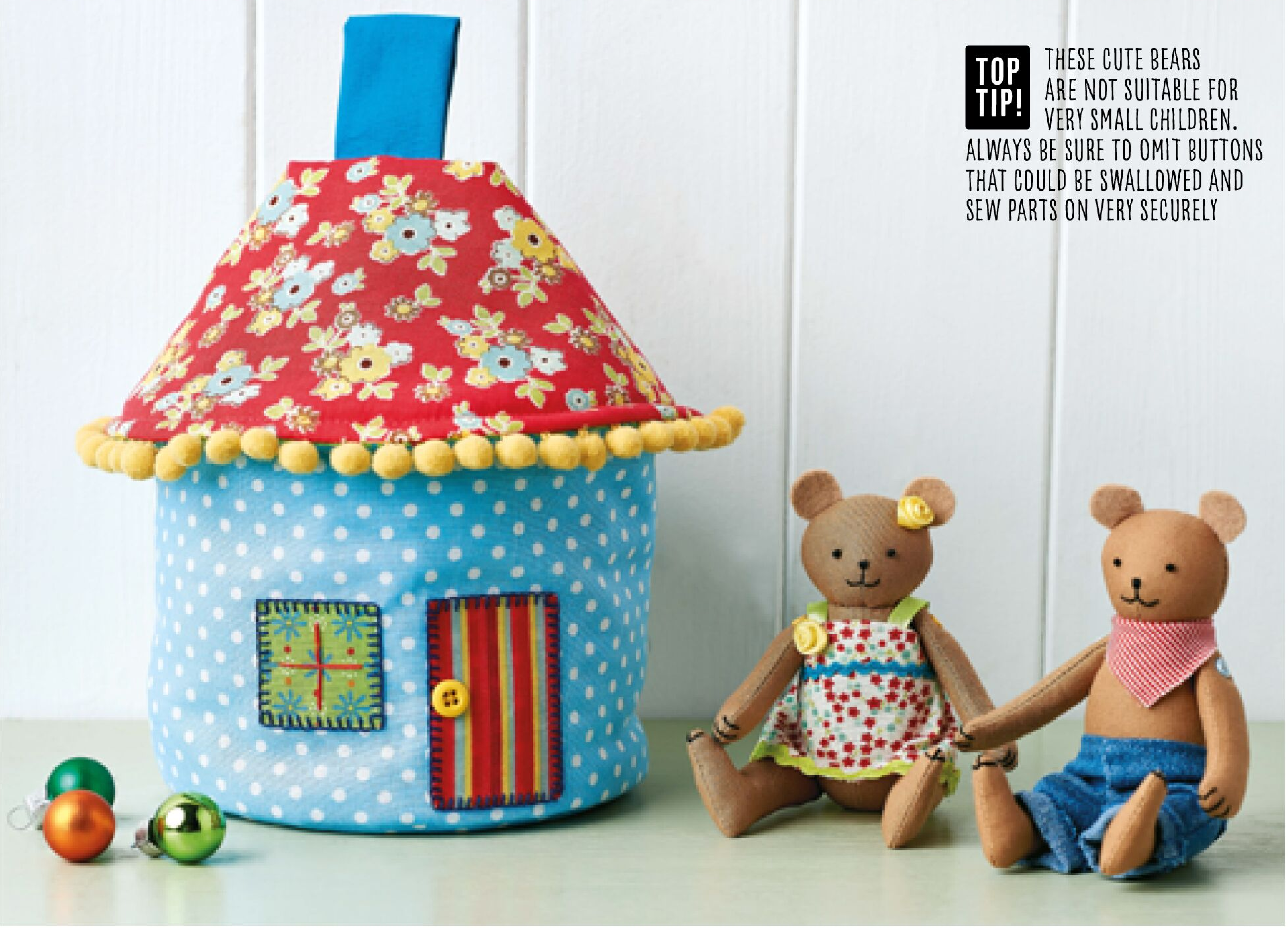


TOP TIP! THESE CUTE BEARS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR VERY SMALL CHILDREN. ALWAYS BE SURE TO OMIT BUTTONS THAT COULD BE SWALLOWED AND SEW PARTS ON VERY SECURELY

pin, attaching the ribbons at the same time. Fasten the back edges of the dress with two press studs. Sew one ribbon rose to the dress and one in front of an ear.

BEAR HOUSE

1 Cut one 14cm x 48cm side panel and one 18cm circular base from blue spotted fabric and the same from green floral print and wadding. Trim one base from fusible interfacing. Cut one roof on the fold from red floral fabric, one from green and one from wadding. Back 4cm x 6cm of red striped fabric and a 4cm square of green floral print with fusible webbing for the door and window. Remove the backing papers.

2 Position the door and window on the blue side panel, and press in place. Using three strands of blue embroidery thread and a crewel needle, outline the door and window with blanket stitch. Sew a cross in the centre of the window with straight stitch and red thread. Attach a yellow button to the left of the door as a handle.

3 Press interfacing to the wrong side of the blue base. Pin the blue side panel, blue base and red roof right side up on top on their coordinating wadding pieces. Tack the outer edges. Fold the side panel in half widthways with right sides together. Stitch along the short edges, taking a 1cm seam allowance. Carefully trim away the wadding in the seam allowance, then press the seam open.

4 Pin and stitch the lower edge of the side panel to the base, with right sides facing, giving a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the wadding in the seam allowance and snip the curves. Turn out. Repeat with the green floral side panel and base to make a lining, leaving a gap for turning as you stitch the short edges of the side panel together.

5 With right sides facing, slip the house into the lining, matching the seams. Stitch the upper edge, taking a 1cm seam allowance. Turn out, then slip stitch the gap closed. Topstitch just below the upper edge.

6 To make a loop, fold 9cm x 11cm of jade fabric in half lengthways with right sides together. Stitch the long edges, giving a 1cm seam allowance, then press the seam open. Turn through and press flat with the seam centred. Fold the loop in half widthways with the seam on the inside, and pin the raw ends together. Pin and tack the loop to the right side of the red roof, matching the raw ends to the front edge. Pin and tack pom-pom trim to the curved edge of the roof.

7 Fold the red roof in half with right sides facing, then stitch the back edge taking a 1cm seam allowance. Carefully trim away the wadding in the seam allowance, and press the seam open. With right sides together, fold the roof, matching the back seam to the centre of the front edge. Stitch the short edge taking a 1cm seam allowance. Turn the roof out.

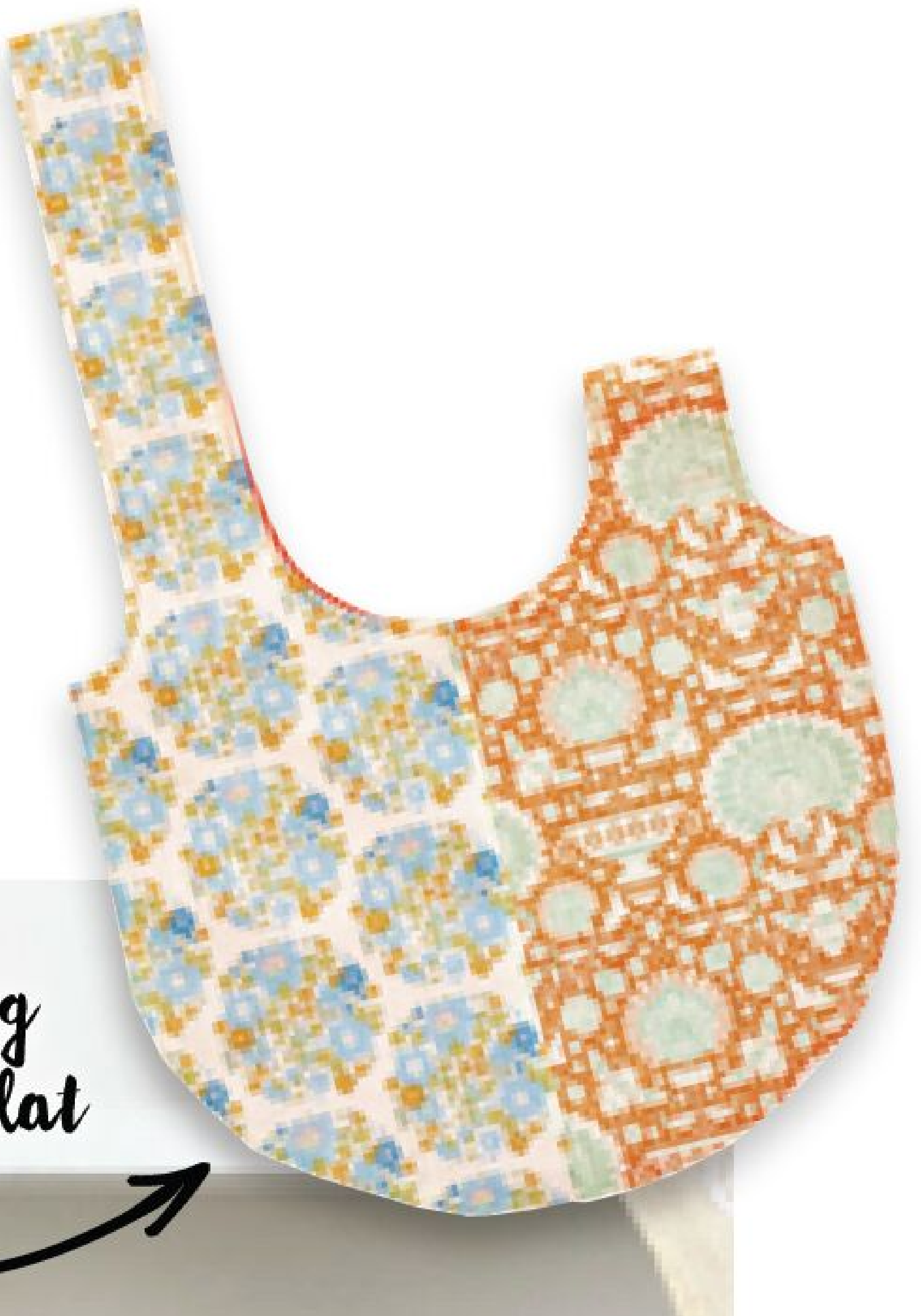
8 To make the roof lining, fold the green roof in half with right sides together and stitch the back edge, taking a 1cm seam allowance and leaving an 11cm gap for turning. Press the seam open. With right sides together, fold the roof, matching the back seam to the centre of the front edge. Stitch the short edge taking a 1cm seam allowance.

9 Slip the roof into the lining, right sides facing and matching the seams. Take a 1cm seam allowance to stitch the curved edge and use a piping or zipper foot to accommodate the pom-pom trim. Trim the wadding in the seam allowance and snip the curves. Turn the roof out through the gap in the lining, and slip stitch closed. Press the lining to the inside along the curved edge, and topstitch 7.5mm inside the edge to finish.

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Handy bags

These handy holdalls are a speedy and satisfying make for beginners



Unfastened bag when laid out flat

KIT LIST

★ Assorted cottons, patterned, plain

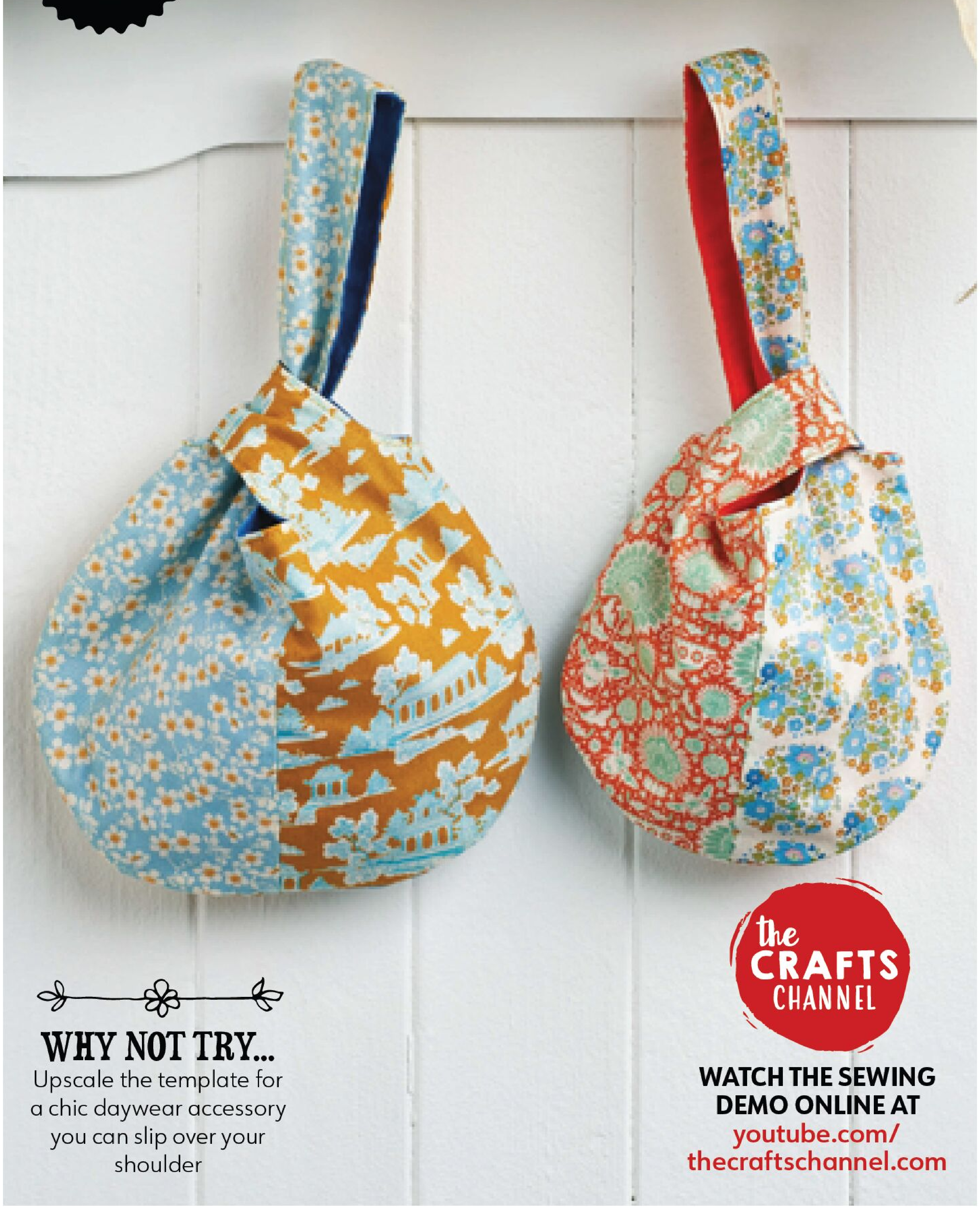
Size: Small: 20.5cm x 33cm, Medium: 26.5cm x 36cm

1 Copy the templates from our pattern pages. Cut two long-handle pieces and two short-handle sections from plain cotton, then a left-hand long handle and a left-hand short handle piece from print fabric. Snip a right-hand long handle and a right-hand short handle section from a contrasting print.

2 Stitch the two patterned long handle pieces right sides together at the end of the strap. Repeat for the two patterned short handle pieces. Lay each adjoined piece flat, face up, then place the plain cotton pieces on top. Sew these together at the ends of the strap, ensuring the raw edges of the seam are on top.

3 With the sections right sides together, stitch the linings to the outers along the curved edges. Clip the curves, then turn right sides out through the channel created between the curves. Press. Pair up the straight edges at the centre of the bag, right sides together. Match the seam between the outer and lining and sew two continuous seams to join the two halves of the bag.

4 Fold up the outers of the bag and pin right sides together around the curved edges, tucking the handles out of the way. Pin the linings together in the same way. Stitch around the sides and base of the bag, leaving a 5cm gap in the bottom of the lining. Clip the curves and turn right sides out. Fold in the raw edges and slip stitch the gap closed. Tuck the lining inside the bag and press. Pin and topstitch the handles if desired.



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

WHY NOT TRY...

Upscale the template for a chic daywear accessory you can slip over your shoulder

the CRAFTS CHANNEL

WATCH THE SEWING DEMO ONLINE AT
youtube.com/thecraftschannel.com

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Wreath decoration

Get that 'Driving home for Christmas' feeling with our merry makes

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton print (Winter Wonder Collection rileyblakedesigns.com)
★ Felt ★ Fibre filling
★ Fusible appliqué

CAR ORNAMENT

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Trace one truck body, one window, two pairs of wheels, two wheel arches and one tree shape onto a fusible appliqué sheet. Roughly snip the shapes out before ironing onto the reverse of the patterned fabric. Cut the shapes out neatly along the drawn line and peel away the backing paper.

2 Take coordinating felt, 11cm x 13cm, and arrange the fabric pieces on top of it. Use a hot iron to press them in place. Allow the work to cool and pin to a second piece of felt. Use sharp scissors to trim the felt to leave a narrow border around the appliqué. Oversew the two pieces of felt together, securing the fabric shape. Cut a length of grosgrain ribbon and seal the ends with a flame. Fold the ribbon in half and sew the loose ends to the back of the truck shape to hang.

WREATH

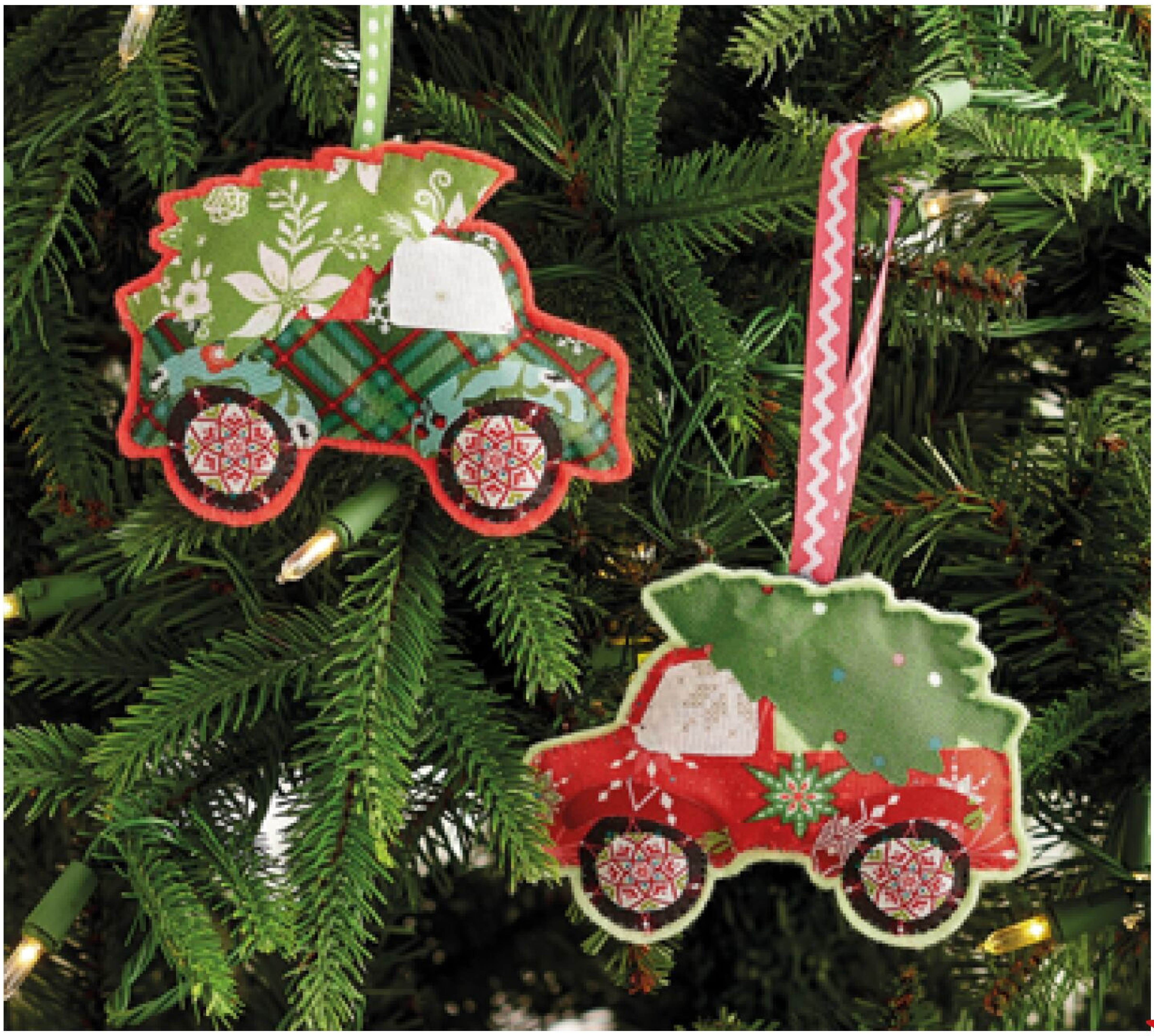
1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Using the template, cut a wreath shape from folded fabric, adding a 5mm seam allowance to the edges. Trace the smaller sectional template pieces onto thin card and snip out. Use these pieces to trace the shapes onto the reverse of different patterned fabrics then cut out five fabric pieces from each shape, adding a 5mm seam allowance on all sides.

2 Arrange the small patchwork pieces on a flat surface to create a ring, where no two pieces of the same fabric touch. Sew the pieces together along the straight middle seam, then stitch each segment to the next. Press well and place the patchwork onto the completed ring, right sides together.

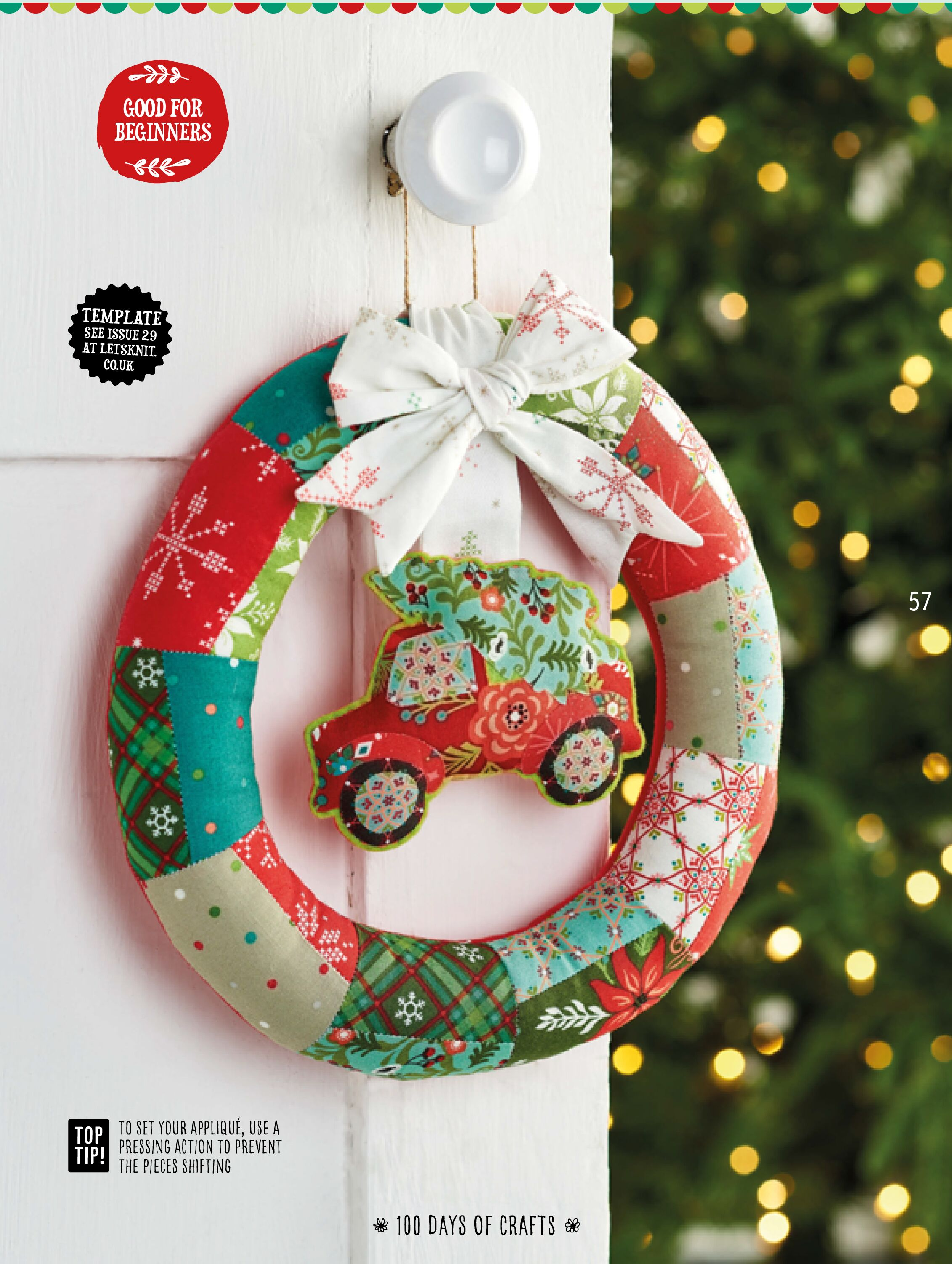
3 Sew around the inner and outer edges of the ring. Fold over the raw edges at each end of the ring and glue lightly to hold in place before turning the tube right sides out. Begin stuffing the tube, working the fibre filling to halfway down the shape from either end with a knitting needle. Pack the tube firmly and as it fills up the two ends will come closer together. When full, oversew the folded edges together.

4 Cut an 8cm x 20cm strip and fold it in half lengthways right sides together. Stitch down the long seam leaving a 4cm gap in the centre. Flatten the fabric so the seam runs down the centre and sew across both ends. Turn out through the gap and press well. Wrap this band around the top of the wreath so at least 8cm hangs down in the centre. Secure with a few small hand stitches.

5 Snip a 8cm x 50cm strip and create a band as before, this time sewing the ends into an inverted 'V' instead of straight across. Tie this piece into a neat bow and secure to the top front of the wreath with small stitches. Sew an ornament to the hanging section of the band in the centre of the wreath.



SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS



GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.
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TOP TIP! TO SET YOUR APPLIQUÉ, USE A PRESSING ACTION TO PREVENT THE PIECES SHIFTING

DESIGNER **CHERYL OWEN**

Funky bears

If you are a toy-making newbie, then this tutorial is a good starter project

KIT LIST

★ Navy cotton, 5cm square ★ Patterned cotton, 25cm square ★ Cream cotton, 15cm square ★ Contrasting plain cotton, 30cm square ★ Toy filling ★ Embroidery thread, navy and mustard ★ Crewel needle

Size: 20cm x 22cm

1 Copy the templates from our pattern pages. Use to cut out the following: one pair of muzzles from cream fabric, two heads on the fold, one pair of ears and four pairs of limbs from contrasting plain fabric, one nose from navy fabric, and two bodies on the fold and one pair of ears from patterned fabric. Snip the notches.

2 Refering to the templates, and using a pencil, draw the mouth along the solid lines on the right side of one muzzle then the eyes on the right side of one head. Using three strands of navy embroidery thread and a crewel needle, embroider the mouth in back stitch and the eyes in satin stitch. Outline the eyes in back stitch using three strands of mustard embroidery thread.

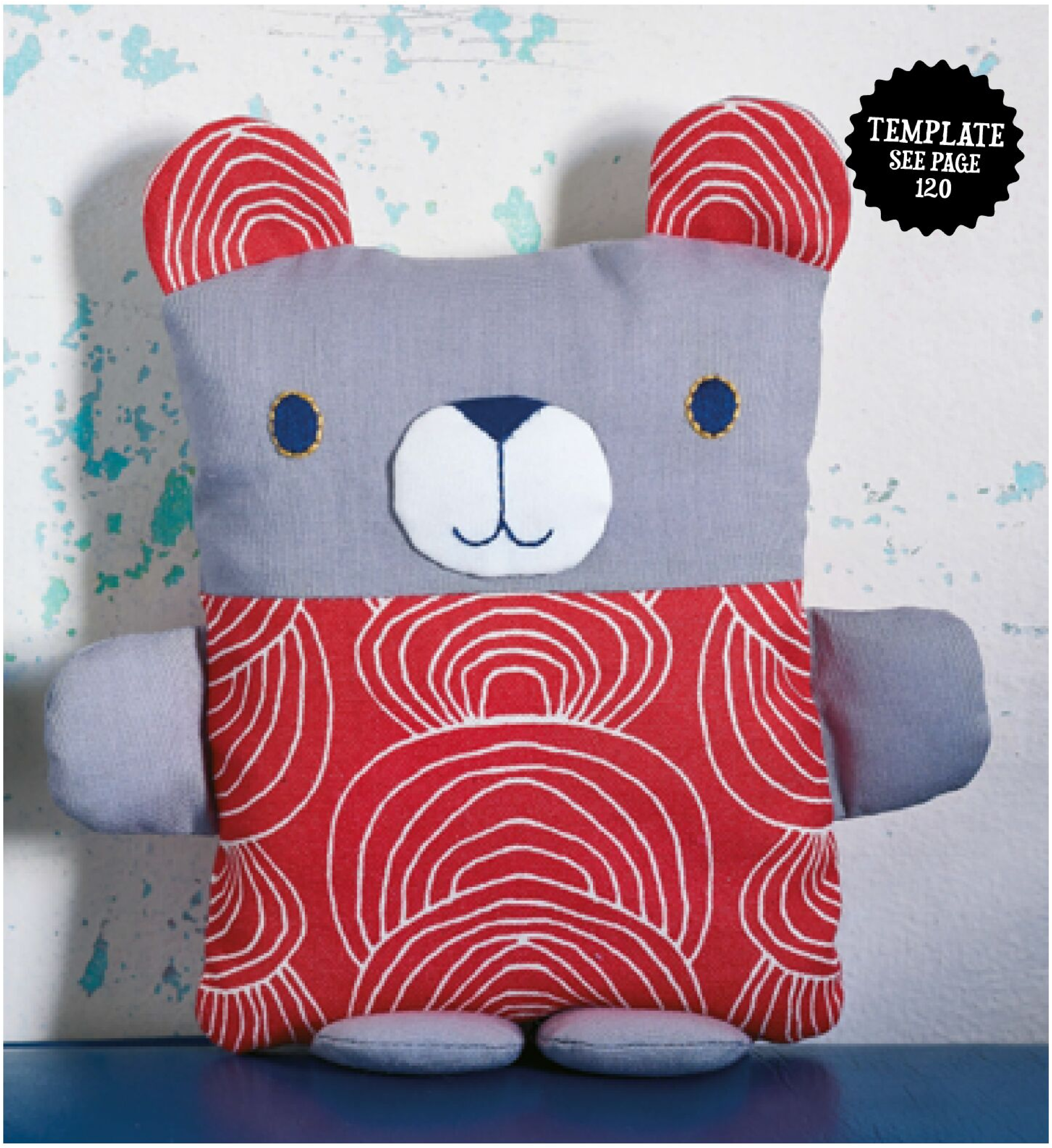
3 Press under 6mm on the straight edges of the nose. With right sides facing up, pin to the embroidered muzzle matching the notches and the tip to the top of the mouth. Slipstitch the pressed edges to the muzzle. Cut a cross along the broken lines on the other muzzle piece. Pin right sides together and stitch the outer edges with a 6mm seam allowance. Snip the curves and turn out through the cross. Lightly stuff then oversew the edges of the cross.

4 With right sides facing up, pin the muzzle to the embroidered head. Sew with small, neat hand stitches. Pin and stitch the embroidered head to a body along the straight edges. Press the seam open. This will be the front head and body.

5 Pin each patterned ear to a plain one. Stitch the outer edges, leaving the notched edges open. Snip the curves and turn right side out. Pin and tack to the front head with the patterned side facing the right side of the head, matching the notches.

6 Pin and stitch the limbs together in pairs, leaving the notched edges open. Snip the curves and turn right side out. Lightly stuff. Pin and tack to the right side of the front body, with the raw edges and notches matching.

7 Pin and stitch the remaining head and body together along the straight edges, leaving a 9cm gap to turn through. Press the seam open. Pin both bodies together, matching the seams. Right sides facing, stitch with a 6mm seam allowance matching notches. Snip the curves and turn out. Stuff firmly and evenly. Slipstitch the gap closed.



TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

TOOTLES THE TAXI
AND OTHER RHYMES
A LADYBIRD BOOK
The Ladybird Book of
NIG

WHY NOT TRY...

Size up the template and stitch a bear that can be used as a pillow

DESIGNER **CHLOE HAILWOOD**

Stitcher's duo

Busy needlecrafters will appreciate these practical gadgets – a wrist pincushion and a wearable tape measure!

KIT LIST

- Fabric, three fat quarters
- Wadding
- Medium-weight iron-on interfacing, 50cm
- Card, 10cm square
- Velcro, 5cm
- Soft tape measure, two

NB: use 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

Velcro strips ensure this pincushion remains firmly in place

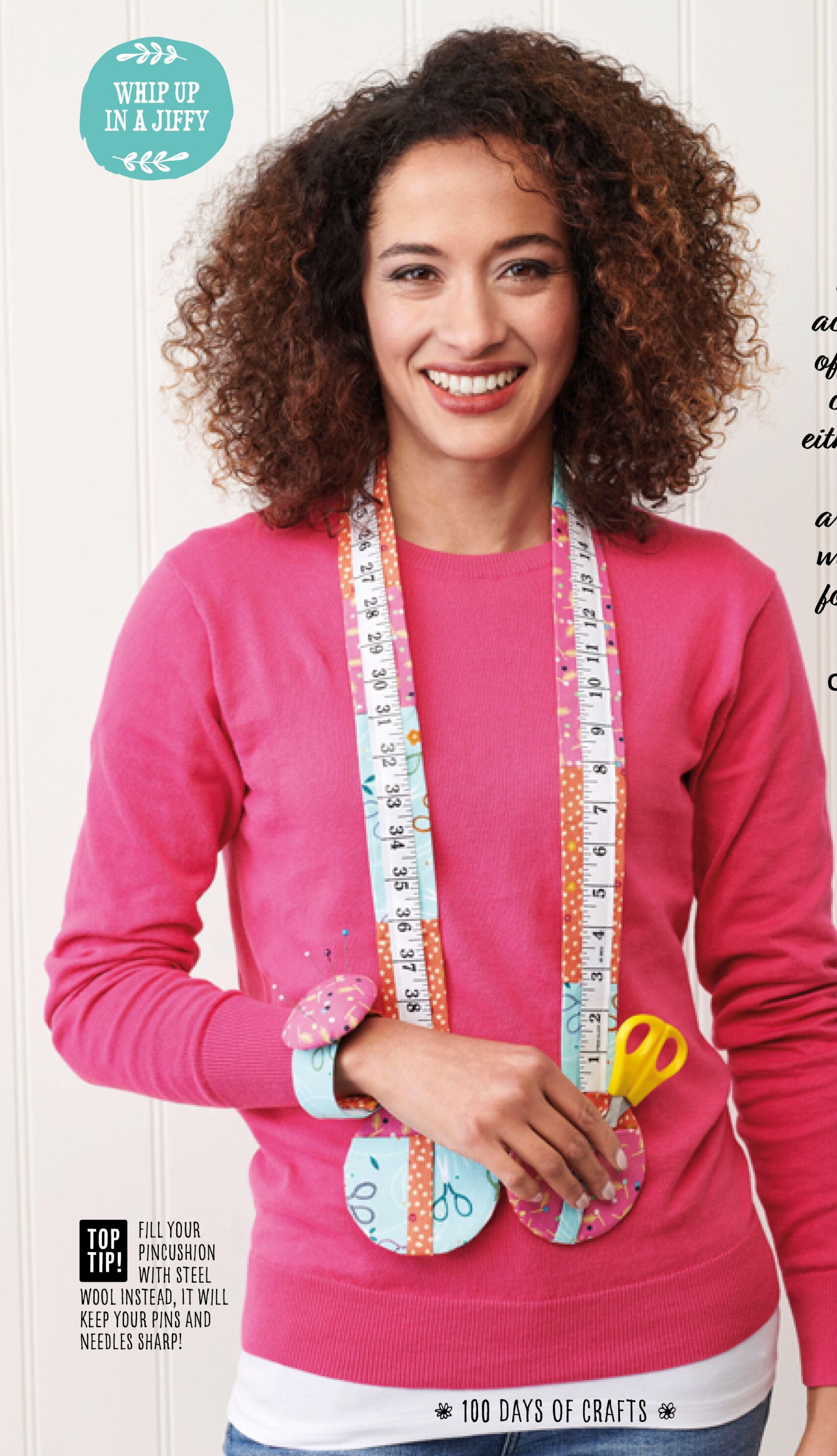
1 Prepare circle templates in the following diameters: 7cm, 11cm, 13cm. Press interfacing onto the reverse of all fabrics. Using the 11cm shape, cut six tape measure accessory circles in contrasting prints. Cut one 13cm pincushion fabric circle and a 7cm cardboard disc. Sew long running stitches 1cm in from the edge of the 13cm pincushion piece. Pull the thread to partly gather the material. Push wadding behind the bunched fabric and slip the card disc on top. Pull the stitching tightly to secure the bundle.

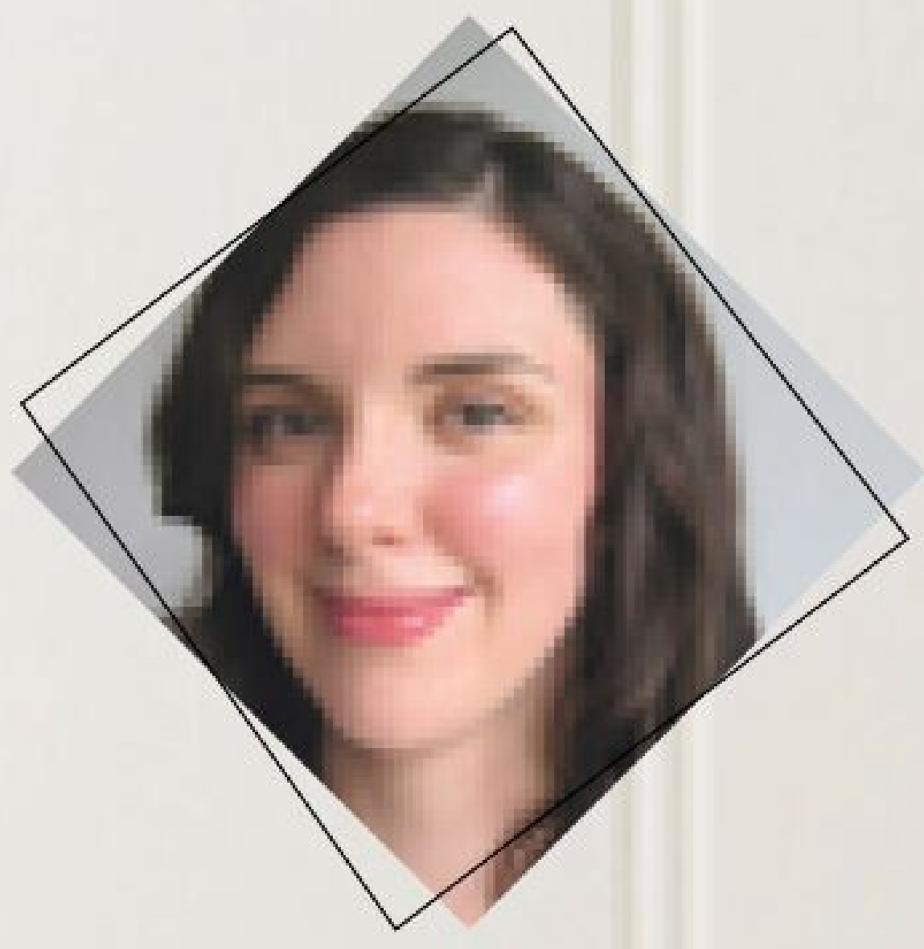
2 Cut two contrasting fabric strips: 8cm x 15cm and 8cm x 10cm. With right sides facing, join the two short ends and press open the seam. Fold in half lengthways and stitch 10cm down the long edge, then double stitch to secure, leaving a 5cm gap. Sew the remaining 10cm. Move the seam to the centre and stitch across both short ends. Turn the strip to the right side through the opening. Push out the corners, whip stitch the gap closed and press. Position the pincushion in the centre of the strap and stitch the underside of the ruched fabric disc to it. Add Velcro fasteners either side.

3 Cut a variety of 9cm-wide fabric strips and join to create a 1.2m length. Stitch across the short edges, and follow the steps above to create a longer version of the pincushion strap. Trim the tape measures to fit the fabric strip and clip in place, one on each side. Sew along one edge of the first tape measure. Repeat the process on the second side, stitching the opposite tape measure edge. Take care not to re-stitch the first tape. Remove all clips and press on a cool iron setting using a press cloth.

4 Cut two fabric strips 4cm x 12cm. Fold each in half lengthways, right sides facing. Stitch down the long edge and turn to the right side, moving the seam to the centre. Take three 13cm fabric circles, fold one down by a third and lay directly on top of another. Tack to secure. The folded circle will form a pocket. Lay one of the small strips centrally and vertically on the front of the pouch, folding the top raw edge behind the pocket and tack.

5 Place the remaining fabric circle on top of the pockets, right sides facing. Sew around the edge leaving a 4cm gap at the top. Turn through and press. Secure the top of the strip with a few small stitches to the reverse of the pouch. Repeat the process to make another pocket. Tuck the ends of the large strip into the gap of the pockets and make small, close whip stitches to secure.





> *"The clever tape measure accessory, which offer inches and centimetres on either side, drapes comfortably around the neck with two pockets for scissors and thimbles"*

CHLOE HAILWOOD
DESIGNER

TOP TIP! FILL YOUR PINCUSHION WITH STEEL WOOL INSTEAD, IT WILL KEEP YOUR PINS AND NEEDLES SHARP!

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Beret bunny

This chic bunny is ready for a day of shopping along the Champs-Élysées – she comes with a tote and bow for her owner

KIT LIST

- Fabric, cotton
- Toy filling
- Quilt wadding
- Buttons
- Embroidery thread
- Chalk pencil
- Hair comb, clip or elastic
- Diamante button, embellishment or brooch

BUNNY

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Trace around the template pieces onto folded fabric and cut out, adding a 5mm seam allowance. Place pairs of ears, right sides together, onto wadding and stitch around each pair, leaving the bottom straight edge open. Clip the seam allowance with pinking shears, turn right sides out and press.

2 Fold the top of each head piece so the edges of the darts line up. Insert an ear into each dart, matching up raw edges, and stitch across securely. Sew the darts at the bottom of the body before matching up the body pieces and stitching all around, leaving a turning gap in the back edge. Avoid catching the ears as you do this. Clip the curves and turn out. Stuff firmly, fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed.

3 Pair up the arms and legs, right sides together, and sew around, leaving a 3cm gap in the top back edge of each. Turn each limb out and stuff, then fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed. Attach the limbs to the body with button joints using a double thickness of thread for extra security.

TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

4 Use two strands of dark embroidery thread to stitch the nose and mouth on the point of the face. Add two closed eyelids with lashes on either side, sketching with a chalk pencil first to ensure symmetry.

5 For the beret, cut two circles of fabric and one of wadding. Layer fabric onto the wadding, right sides together, and sew around the edge. Cut a 4cm long slit in the centre of the circle. Turn through so the wadding is sandwiched between the fabric. Use a buttonhole stitch to bind the slit and sew across the centre to make two holes. These can be slipped over one or both ears.

6 For the dress, cut the bodice front and back pieces from patterned and plain fabric. Match up the shoulder seams of each set and stitch together, then layer the outer and lining, right sides together. Sew around the neckline, down the back seam and around the armholes before turning right sides out by pushing the back of the bodice through the shoulders. Match up the side seams individually and stitch. Press the bodice well.

7 Cut a 40cm length of fabric, fold in half right sides together and sew up the back seam. Turn up and stitch a small hem along the bottom edge using a decorative stitch. Run a line of large straight stitch around the top edge and gather the skirt to a diameter of around 16cm.

8 Pin the bottom edge of the bodice to the gathered edge of the skirt, allowing the back panels of the bodice to overlap on the back seam. Sew together with a 1cm seam allowance, then trim and neaten the seam with zig-zag stitch. Remove the gathering stitches and add a fastening to the top of the bodice back. Add coordinating buttons to the shoulders.

HAIR BOW

1 Fold patterned fabric right sides together and cut two tail pieces. Sew around the edges leaving the flat section unstitched. Trim the seam allowance and turn out through the hole. Press well and gather up the flat section of each piece.

2 From the folded fabric, cut a bow piece and layer onto quilt wadding. Sew all around the edges, then clip a small slit

GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

in the centre of one layer. Turn right sides out so the wadding is sandwiched between the two pieces of fabric. Oversew the slit on the back, then gather the centre of the bow vertically.

3 Hand stitch each tail to the back of the gathered section of the bow. Secure a hair comb or clip to the back of the bow by either sewing directly onto the bow, or with a rectangle of double thickness fabric slipped throughthe fastening, then sewn to the bow. Decorate the centre with a diamante embellishment or small brooch.

TOTE BAG

1 Cut a panel of patterned fabric, 21cm, and place right sides together onto a white 21cm square. Stitch all around the panel leaving a 5cm gap in one edge. Clip the corners and turn right side out. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and press well. Topstitch the top edge of the panel only. Cut two 32cm squares from patterned fabric and two from plain white. Pin the lined panel to one of the patterned squares at an angle and topstitch around the remaining three edges to make a pocket.

2 Cut two straps, 4cm x 45cm. Fold in half lengthways, right sides together, and sew down the edge. Turn out and press the seams to one side. Tack a strap to the top of each patterned square with each end, approximately 5cm out from the centre, matching the raw edges. Lay the plain white squares over the top and stitch along the top edge.

3 Open out the sets of squares and place one on top of the other, right sides together. Sew down both long side seams and across the bottom of the patterned squares. Stitch across the bottom of the white squares leaving a 5cm gap in the centre of the seam. Turn out the bag through the gap, fold in the raw edges and topstitch closed. Push the lining back into the tote and press well.

J'ADORE
PARIS

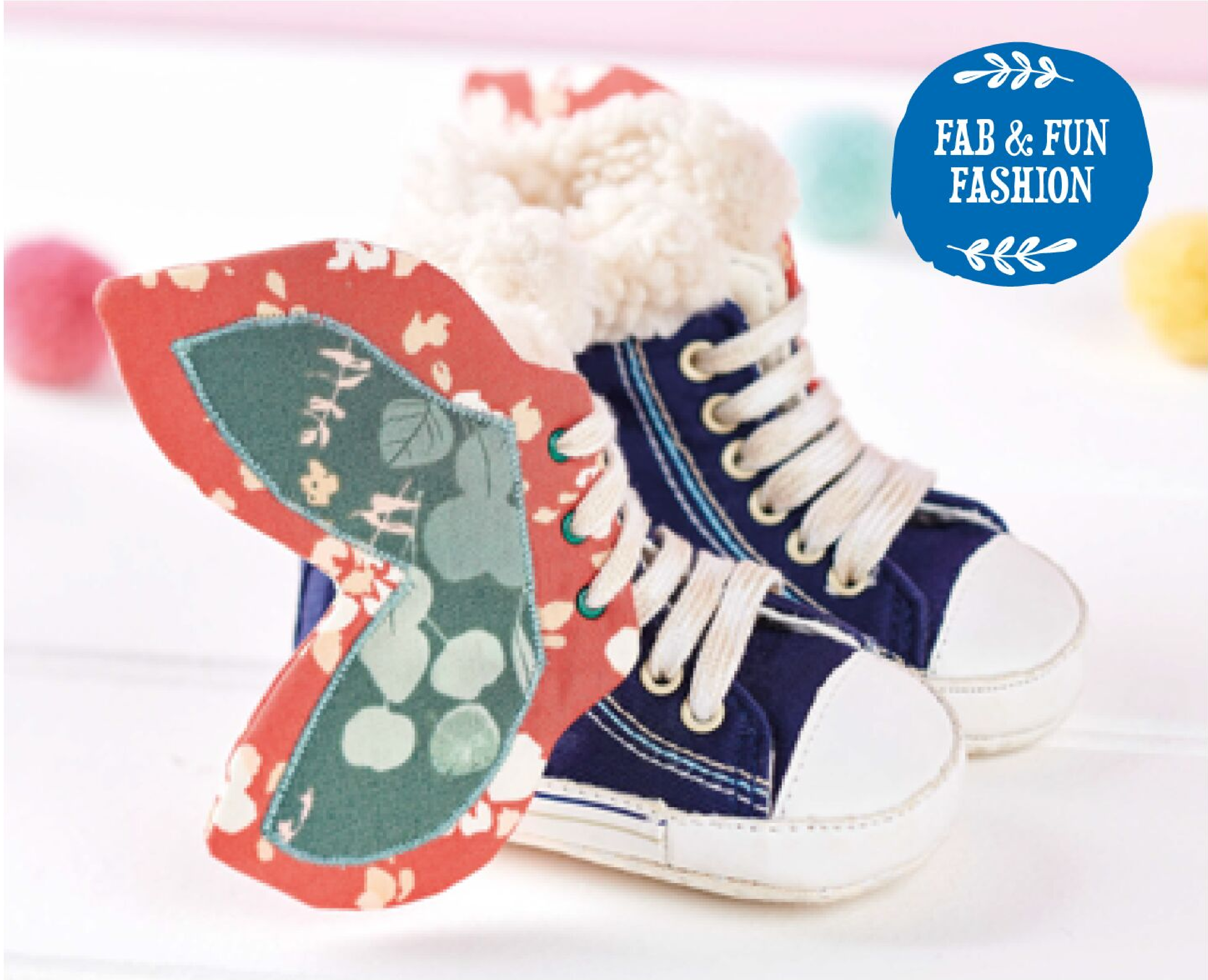
DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Boot wings

Kids will look super cool with their boots trimmed with a pair of wings

KIT LIST

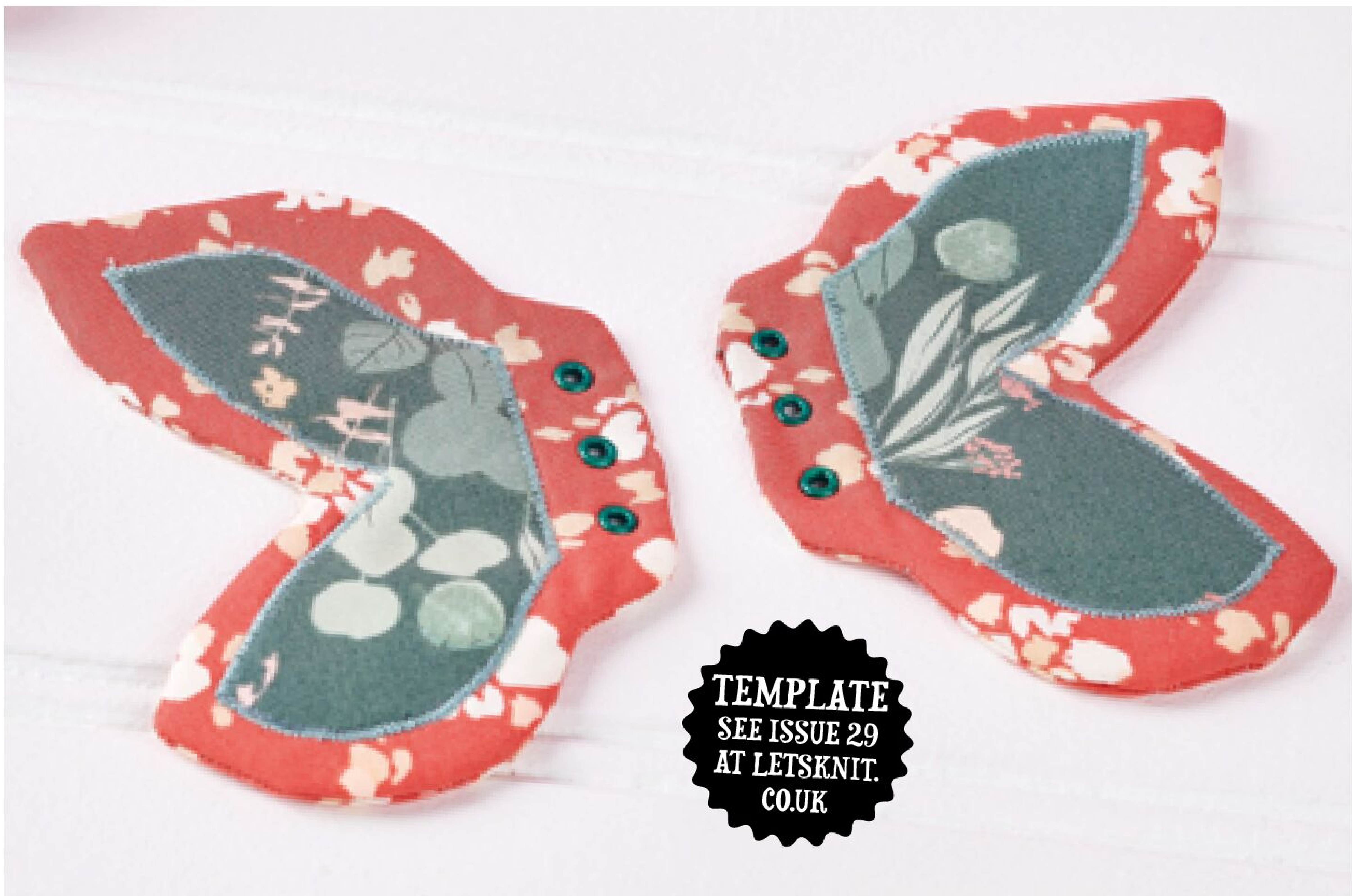
- ★ Fabric, assorted cotton prints
- ★ Fibre filling
- ★ Hole punch
- ★ Lightweight quilt wadding
- ★ Fusible adhesive sheet
- ★ Embroidery thread
- ★ Coloured eyelets, six
- ★ Knitting needle



1 For each foot, cut two large wing shapes from fabric with right sides together, adding a 5mm seam allowance to the outline of the template. Snip two smaller mirrored wings from cotton backed with appliqué adhesive, without the additional seam allowance.

2 Mount one pair of large wings onto quilt wadding, cut to the same size and zig-zag stitch together. Position the smaller wings in the centre of the larger ones and fuse in place with an iron. Using a coordinating thread colour and a tight zig-zag stitch, secure by sewing around the edges. Layer the remaining large wing pieces over the appliquéd ones, right sides together, and sew around the edges leaving a small gap in the centre of the straight section on each one.

3 Clip the curves and corners, then turn them out with a large knitting needle. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and press each wing before oversewing the gap with tiny stitches. Starting from the centre, mark three spots down the straight part of each wing, 8mm from the edge and 12mm apart. Use a hole punch to make small holes in the wings and fit coloured eyelets into each one so they can be threaded onto boot laces.



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

DESIGNER **ELLEN KHARADE**

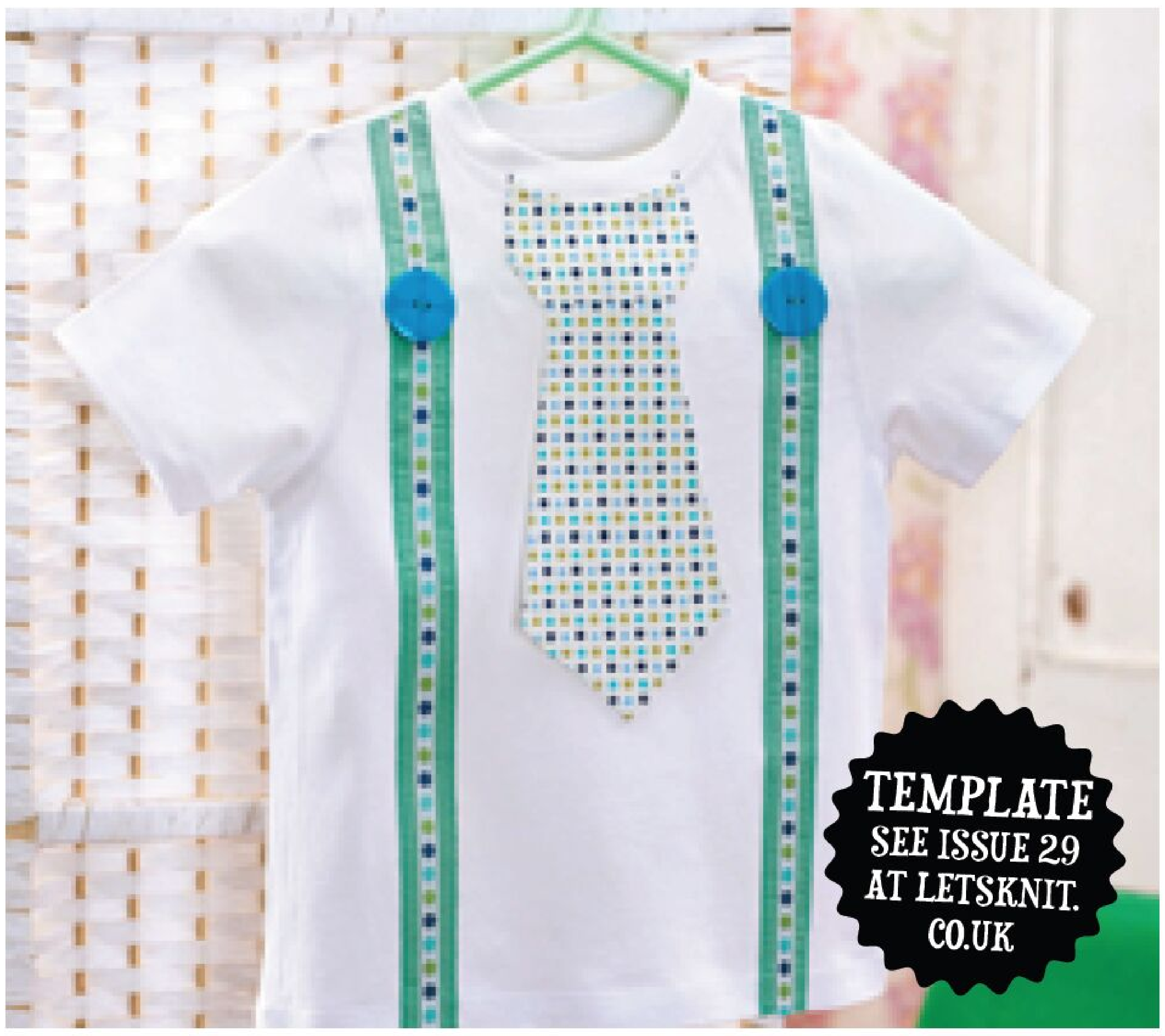
Appliquéd T-shirts

Add a fun touch to a plain tee with with these faux formal designs – try a tie and braces or a bowtie and waistcoat

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton, fat quarters: polka dot, red/white, polka dot, white/navy, blue/green; plain, green ★ T-shirts, plain, white, two ★ Ribbon: blue; red ★ Fusible interfacing, 25cm ★ Fusible webbing ★ Buttons, small, black, three; decorative, 3.5cm, two

Motif will fit ages 3-4, 5-6 , 7-8



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

WAISTCOAT & BOW

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Trace the waistcoat section and bow tie onto paper and cut them out.Trim the bow tie from navy polka dot fabric and cover the back with fusible webbing. Cut out two 20cm x 40cm rectangles of red fabric, pin and machine stitch the pieces together. Press the seam open. Fold the fabric in half down the centre seam, pin the waistcoat template to the fabric, aligning up to the centre seam, and cut out the shape. Fold a piece of fusible webbing in half. Pin the waistcoat template to the webbing and cut the shape out, then iron to the back of the polka dot fabric.

2 To make the handkerchief, cut out a triangle of navy polka dot fabric and cover the back with fusible webbing. Fold over and press down a 1cm hem on the two longest sides of the triangle. Cut out a 6.6cm x 8.5cm rectangle of red polka dot fabric and iron onto the back of a rectangle of fusible webbing. Fold over and press down a 1cm hem on two short sides and one long side. On the remaining long side, stitch on a length of coordinating ribbon and fold the ends to the back of the fabric.

3 Peel off the backing paper from the waistcoat and position on the front of the T-shirt. Place a pressing cloth over the fabric and iron to fix. Position the handkerchief towards the top of the waistcoat, place the pocket on top and iron to attach as before. Cut out a rough outline of the waistcoat from interfacing, taking it up the neckline, and iron to the inside front of the shirt. Machine stitch around the outline of the waistcoat, pocket and handkerchief in white thread. Position the bow tie at the neckline, press to fix into place and machine stitch around the shape using red thread. Sew buttons down the front.

TIE & BRACES

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Carefully trace the tie pieces onto paper and cut them out. Pin to blue fabric and cut out the tie and knot, ensuring it's centred along the middle line of the dots. Pin the template for the knot to fusible webbing and cut out the piece. Iron onto the back of the fabric knot section. Fold over a 1cm hem all the way around the shape and press to fix into place, taking care not to iron the adhesive on the back of the fabric.

In the same way, pin the template for the tie motif to fusible webbing, cut the shape out and iron onto the back of the fabric tie section, fold over a 1cm hem, leaving the shortest edge, and iron down to fix as above.

2 Pin the template for the tie section to interfacing and cut out the shape, making it 1cm smaller all the way around. Place the interfacing on the reverse of the tie section and iron to fix. Using white thread, machine stitch around the tie shape.

3 Cut a strip of green fabric measuring 3cm wide by the length of the T-shirt and iron onto a strip of fusible webbing. Cut a length of ribbon, measuring the length of the green fabric, and cover the back with a strip of fusible webbing. Peel off the backing paper and position down the centre of the green fabric. Iron into place to fix and machine sew down the sides of the ribbon using straight stitch in white thread. Make the other strip in the same way.

4 Lay the tie piece into position down the centre of the T-shirt, peel off the backing paper from the knot section and place on top of the tie, lay a cloth over the pieces and iron to fix into place. Attach the strips either side of the motif in the same way.

5 Cut two 3cm strips of interfacing and iron to the inside of the shirt so they correspond to the strips on the front. Cut out a rectangle slightly bigger than the knot and iron to the inside of the shirt. Using straight stitch, sew around the shape of the knot incorporating the top of the tie as well. Work a zig-zag stitch along the edges of the strips and sew large decorative buttons on to finish.

WHY NOT TRY...

These designs could be easily changed and adapted for a little girl. Simply replace the waistcoat with the top half of a dress and embellish with ribbon frills, beads and sequins

FAB & FUN FASHION

TOP TIP! ALWAYS IRON LIGHTWEIGHT INTERFACING TO THE INSIDE OF THE GARMENT, BEHIND YOUR MOTIF, AS IT STOPS THE FABRIC STRETCHING AS YOU MACHINE STITCH

DESIGNER **CHLOE HAILWOOD**

Fabric trays

These containers are perfect for keeping supplies or WIPs neatly stowed, or for presenting hamper-style gifts

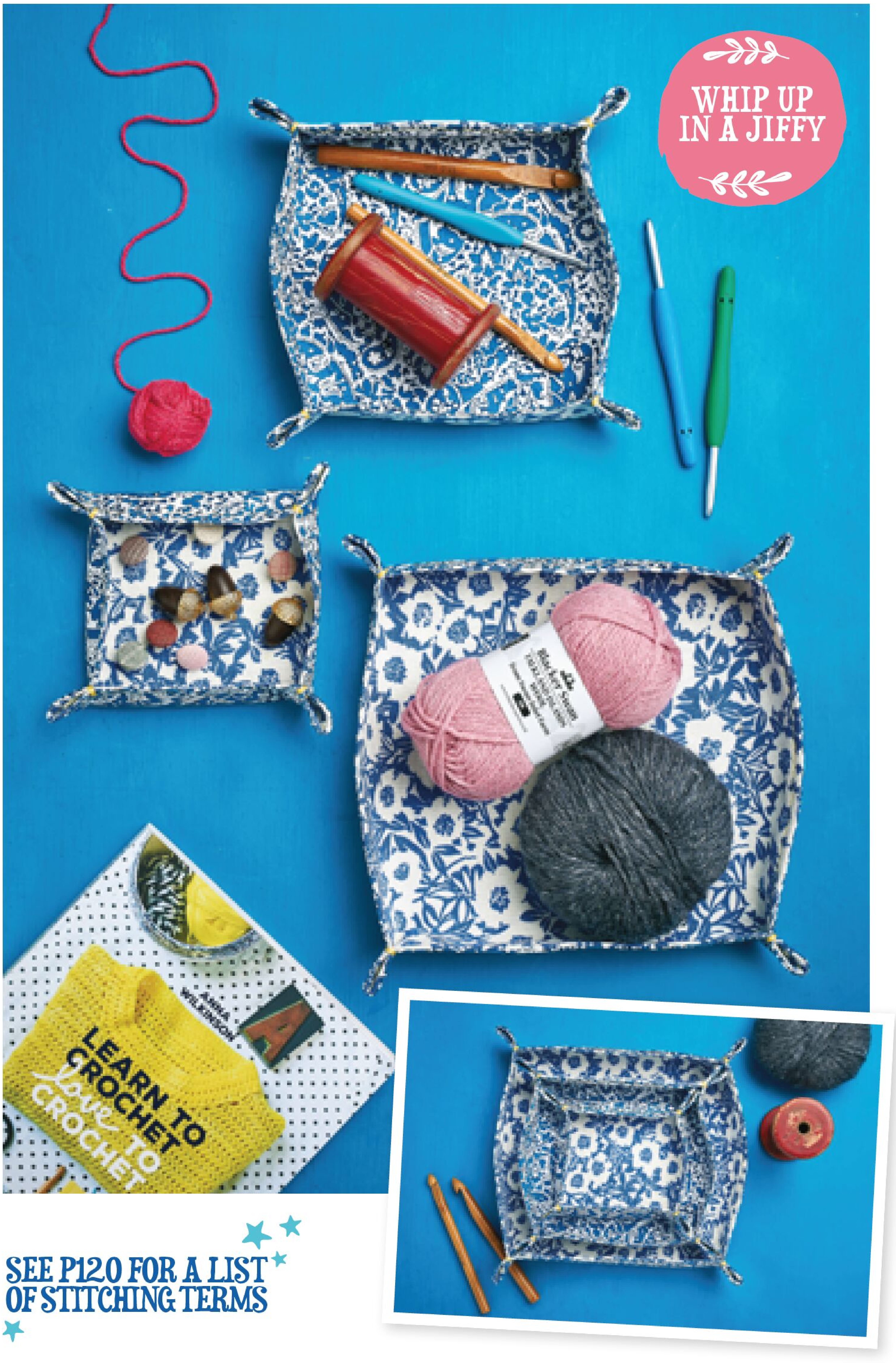
KIT LIST

★ Two fat quarters ★ Firm weight fusible interfacing, 55cm x 90cm ★ Sewing needle ★ Sewing thread, matching and contrasting

1 Iron the interfacing to the reverse of both fabrics. Once cooled, pick up the first fat quarter and mark out a 30cm square, a 25cm square and a 20cm square. Repeat the same for the second fat quarter and cut out the squares.

2 Take each of the 30cm squares and lay one on top of the other, with right sides facing. Pin together. Use matching thread and a 1cm seam allowance to stitch around the four edges, leaving a 10cm gap in the centre of the last side for turning through. At each corner make a mark at 1.5cm from the corner point to the left edge and then again 1.5cm to the right edge. Draw a line between these two marks to create a straight guide across the corner. Sew over this line and repeat with all corners. Trim the corners after stitching.

3 Turn inside out and gently press. Press the seams in place at the opening and slip stitch together. Topstitch all around using the contrasting thread. Pinch the corners together and pin to hold. Using the contrasting thread make a small stitch to secure 3cm in from the corner. Make bigger stitches over the initial stitch to neaten. Repeat with the 25cm squares for the medium tray, and with the 20cm squares for the small tray.



WHIP UP IN A JIFFY

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

DESIGNER **CHLOE HAILWOOD**

Pen wrap

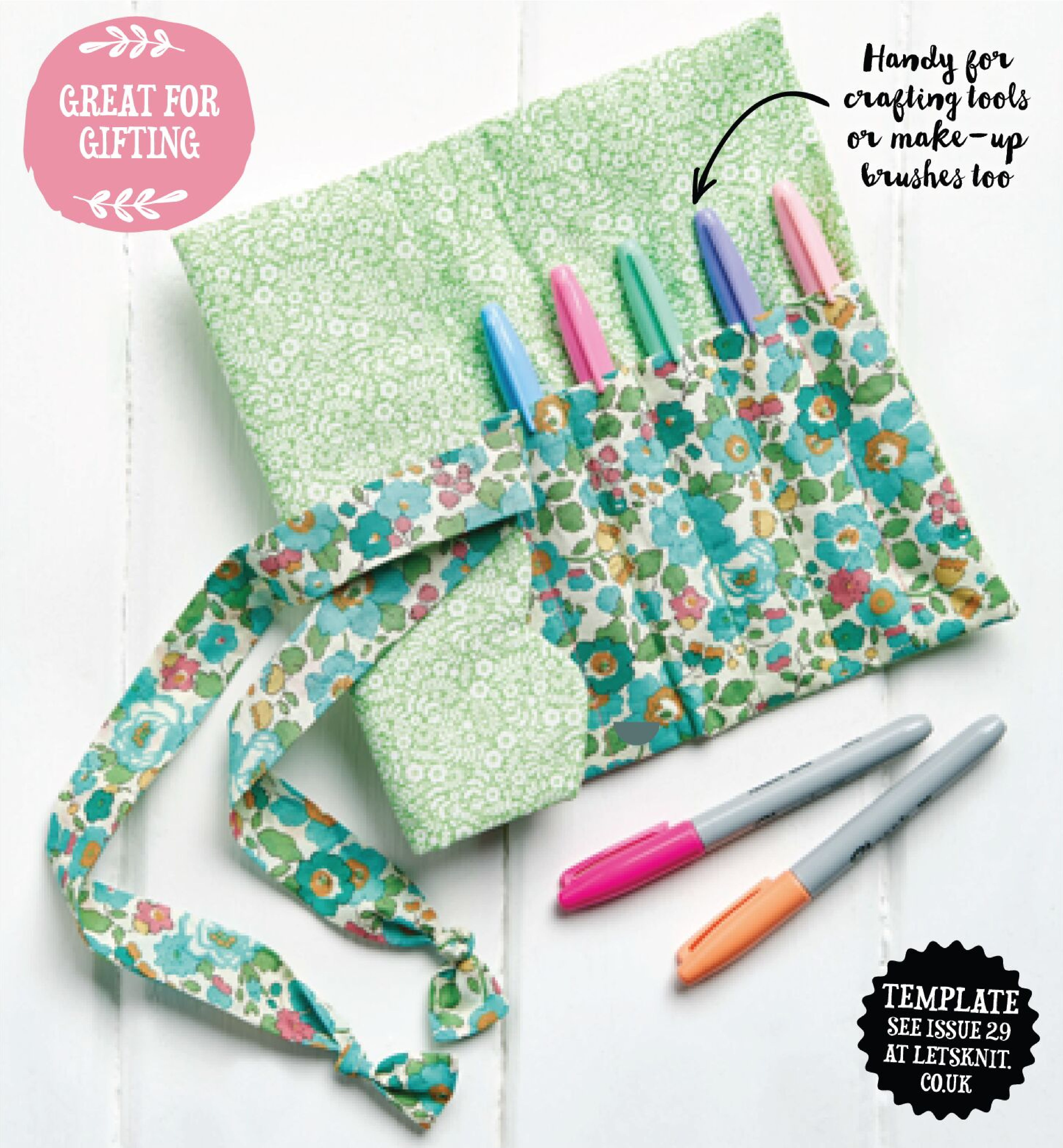
If your colouring pens are looking chaotic, get them organised with this sweet storage solution

KIT LIST

- ★ Fabric: Liberty Tana Lawn in Betsy Aqua, 32cm x 45cm, Liberty Lifestyle Bloomsbury Collection in Green, 23cm x 45cm
- ★ Medium weight fusible interfacing, 45cm x 50cm
- ★ Matching and contrasting threads

Size: 22.5cm x 31cm

NB: use 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated


GREAT FOR GIFTING

Handy for crafting tools or make-up brushes too

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

1 Print the templates. Press a 16cm x 32cm piece of interfacing to the smaller green fabric, keeping as much of the rest of the fabric as possible to use later to make a tie. Mark the pocket template on this bonded fabric and cut out. Press the rest of the interfacing to the reverse of the larger aqua fabric.

2 Pick up the pocket piece. Press a 1cm hem along a 32cm edge, then fold down a further 1cm and press again. Lay the larger piece of fabric down with the pocket piece directly on top, both right sides facing upwards. Position the pocket with the pinned hem towards the top and raw edge along the bottom, with scalloped edges matching up. Pin in place. In contrasting threads, stitch straight lines running vertically from the top hem down to the raw edges. Leave a 3.5cm gap from the scalloped edge to the first line, then stitch a further eight lines at 3cm intervals.

3 Make the ties from the remaining pocket fabric. There should be enough remaining fabric to make two rectangles measuring 6cm x 23cm and one larger rectangle of 6cm x 32cm. Take the two 23cm rectangles and, with right sides facing, stitch two of the short edges together. Open out and press the seam open, then fold in half lengthways with right sides together. Using a 5mm seam allowance, stitch down this length and one end. Turn inside out. Repeat this second step with the single 32cm rectangle to make the shorter tie. When turned through, press and make a knot in the stitched ends.

4 Fold the pen roll in half widthways along the foldline with right sides facing and scallops to the left. Pick up the ties and lay the longer on top of the short with raw edges meeting. Sandwich the ties between the layers, facing inwards and positioned between the two centre scallops. Pin around the edges and stitch, leaving a 10cm gap in the centre of the bottom edge for turning through. Stitch around the scallops using a 5mm seam allowance, changing up to 1cm for the straight edges.

5 Trim the tie edges and make small snips in the seam allowance around the scallops. Turn inside out, gently pushing out the corners. Press before closing the gap with slipstitch.

DESIGNER **CHERYL OWEN**

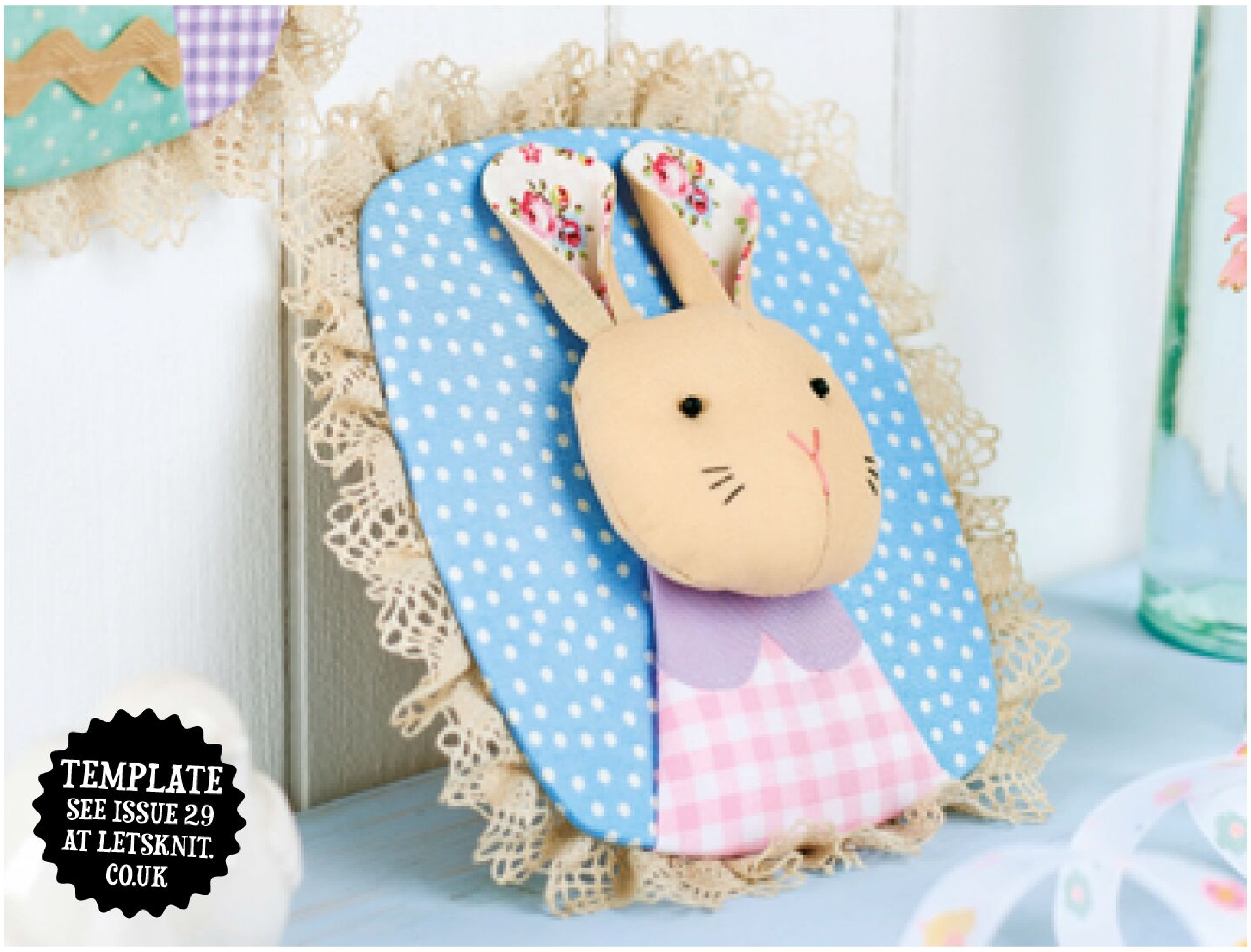
Animal plaques

Create adorable wall decorations for a nursery or child's bedroom

KIT LIST

- Printed fabrics, selection
- Plain white fabric
- Plain cream fabric
- Coordinating thread
- Pink flower button
- Toy filling
- Fawn ric-rac
- Fabric glue
- Thick card, 18cm square
- Glue spreader
- Poster hangers
- Fawn yarn
- Fawn lace, 3cm x 80cm
- Crewel needle
- Black beads

Size: 17cm x 19cm



TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Use them to cut one body on the fold from patterned fabric and one plaque cover on the fold from a different print. Cut one front head on the fold, a pair of back heads and two ears from plain fabric. Trim a pair of ears and a horn from printed cotton. Sew a flower-shaped button to the centre of the body, 2.7cm above the lower edge.

2 Fold the body in half and stitch the straight edge. Finger press the seam open. Turn right side out and adjust the seam to the centre. Pin right side up on the plaque cover, matching the broken lines. Stitch in place. Slip a small amount of toy filling into the body to 2.5cm below the neck. Pin and stitch the upper edge to the plaque cover.

3 Use three strands of fawn embroidery thread to create the unicorn's nostrils in stem stitch. Fold the front head in half, stitch the dart to the dot and press open. Pin each patterned ear to a plain one. Stitch them together, leaving the lower edge open. Snip the curves, turn out and press. With patterned sides facing, fold the lower edge of the ears in to meet at the centre and tack in place. Pin and tack the ears to the top of the head right sides together, 8mm from either side of the dart.

4 Sew the straight edge of the back heads together, leaving a 5cm gap to turn through, and press the seam. Stitch the front and back heads together, matching notches. Snip the curves and finger press the seam open. Turn the head out and stuff firmly. Slip stitch the gap closed.

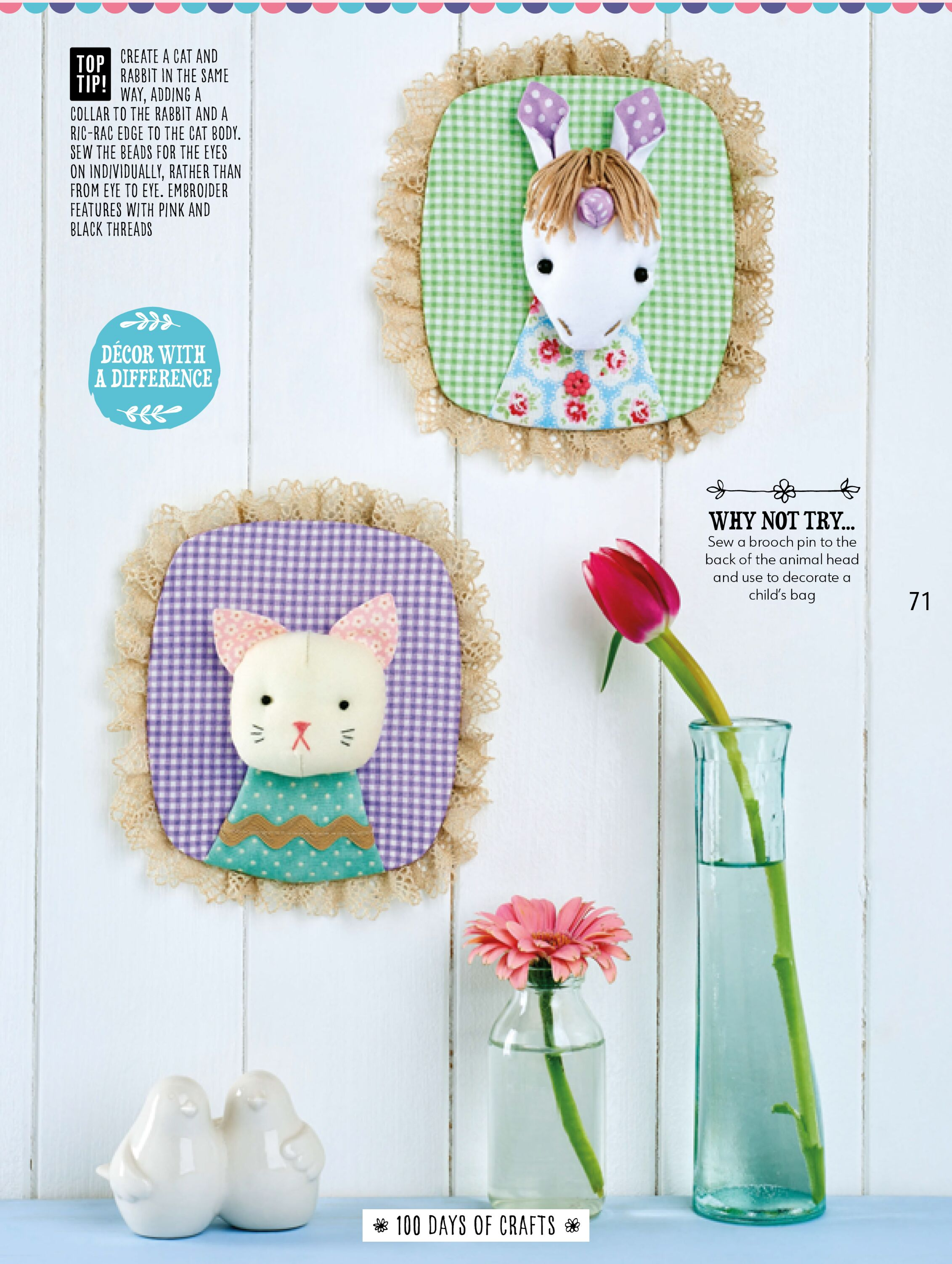
5 Sew a bead at one eye position, taking the thread through the head to the other eye position. Thread on the other bead and insert the needle back through the head to the first. Pull the thread slightly to dimple the fabric and repeat to secure the eyes.

6 Fold the horn in half and stitch the straight edge. Clip the corner and turn right side out. Finger press the seam open. Tuck in the seam allowance on the lower edge. Stuff the horn firmly and pin it to the unicorn's head. Slip stitch in place. Cut 10cm lengths of yarn, bunch them to the top of the unicorn's head between the ears. Flip all the strands forward and trim the lengths. Carefully glue in place sparingly.

7 Draw the plaque template onto thick card, flip it to draw the other half and cut out. Run a gathering stitch around the outer edge of the plaque cover. Place the card in the centre of the wrong side of the cover. Pull up the gathers. Pin the head to the right side of the cover, matching the upper edge of the body. Remove the card and sew the head in place.

8 Replace the cover on the card plaque. Pull up the gathers and fasten securely. Use a glue spreader to insert a little adhesive under the gathers and stick to the card. Stitch the ends of a length of lace together and press the seam open. Gather the raw edge, then pin to the reverse. Adjust the gathers evenly and glue to the plaque. Fix a poster hanger to the back.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS



TOP TIP! CREATE A CAT AND RABBIT IN THE SAME WAY, ADDING A COLLAR TO THE RABBIT AND A RIC-RAC EDGE TO THE CAT BODY. SEW THE BEADS FOR THE EYES ON INDIVIDUALLY, RATHER THAN FROM EYE TO EYE. EMBROIDER FEATURES WITH PINK AND BLACK THREADS

DÉCOR WITH A DIFFERENCE

WHY NOT TRY...

Sew a brooch pin to the back of the animal head and use to decorate a child's bag

DESIGNER **LUCINDA GANDERTON**

Tissue pouch

It's always handy to have a pack of tissues or wet wipes in your handbag, and now you can add a bit of fabric flair to them!

KIT LIST

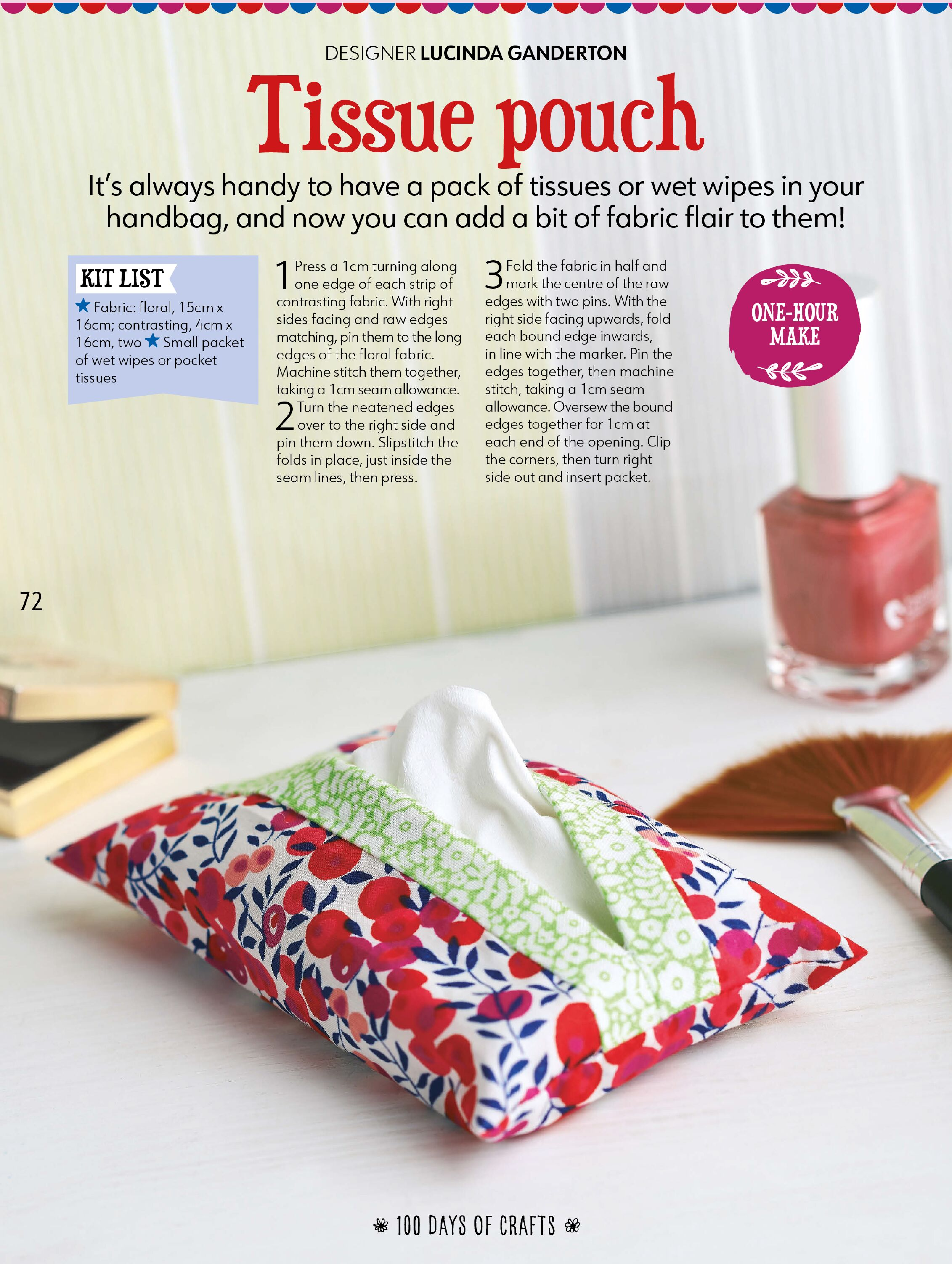
- ★ Fabric: floral, 15cm x 16cm; contrasting, 4cm x 16cm, two
- ★ Small packet of wet wipes or pocket tissues

1 Press a 1cm turning along one edge of each strip of contrasting fabric. With right sides facing and raw edges matching, pin them to the long edges of the floral fabric. Machine stitch them together, taking a 1cm seam allowance.

2 Turn the neatened edges over to the right side and pin them down. Slipstitch the folds in place, just inside the seam lines, then press.

3 Fold the fabric in half and mark the centre of the raw edges with two pins. With the right side facing upwards, fold each bound edge inwards, in line with the marker. Pin the edges together, then machine stitch, taking a 1cm seam allowance. Oversew the bound edges together for 1cm at each end of the opening. Clip the corners, then turn right side out and insert packet.

ONE-HOUR MAKE



DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Drawstring bag

Make a simple drawstring backpack that's perfect for toting toys and carrying PE kit

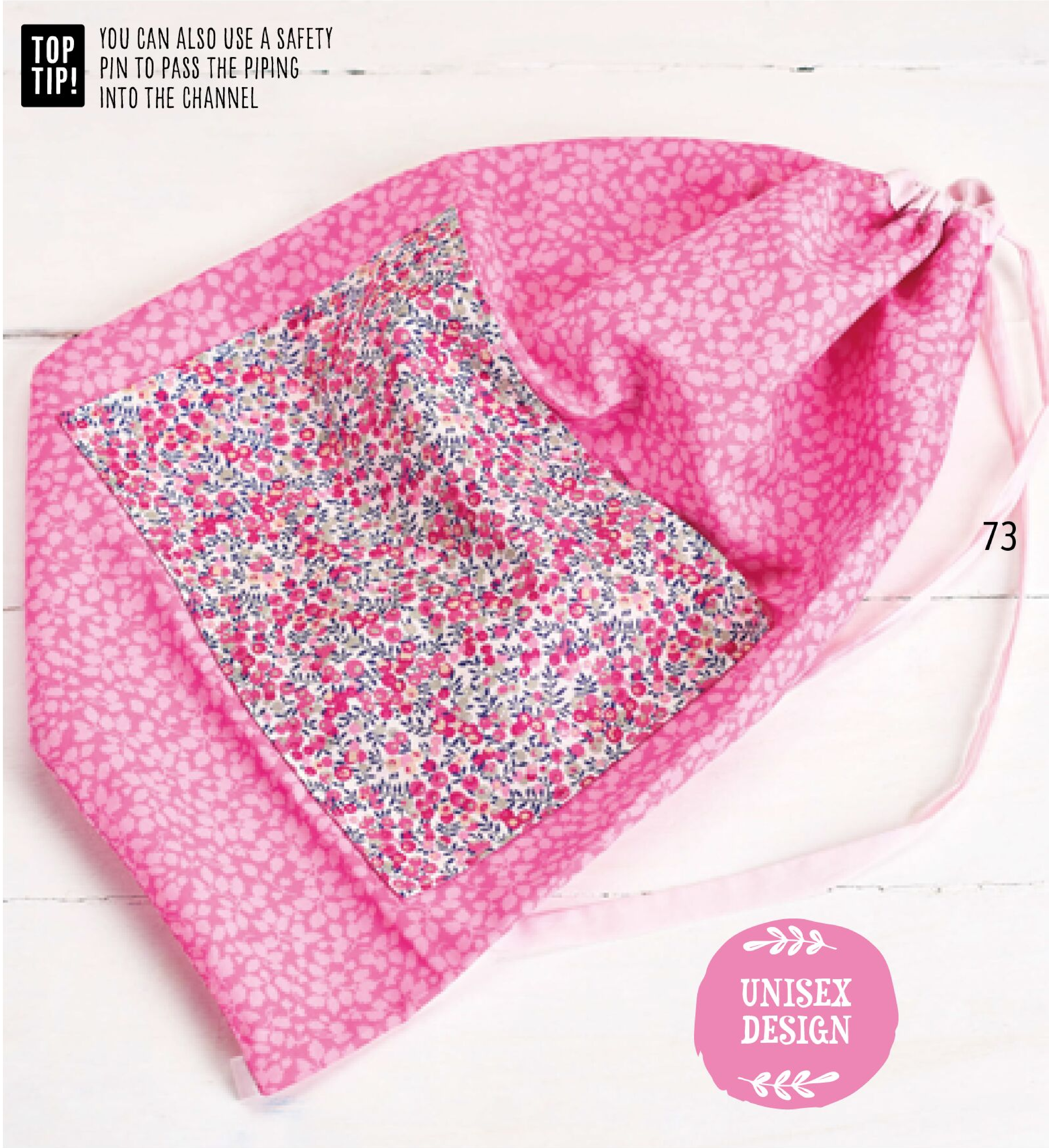
KIT LIST

★ Cotton fabric: printed, plain, fat quarters ★ Card ★ Bodkin

Size: 40cm x 50cm approx

CUTTING GUIDE

★ **Strap:** Cut two from fabric ★ **Pocket:** Cut one from fabric ★ **Drawstring bag:** Cut one from fabric and one from lining



TOP TIP! YOU CAN ALSO USE A SAFETY PIN TO PASS THE PIPING INTO THE CHANNEL

UNISEX DESIGN

1 Cut rectangles, 41cm x 51cm, from one printed fabric and the plain. Sew them right sides together along the top and long edge and open out. Refold the fabric to match up the shorter sides and stitch to create a tube. Fold the printed fabric down over the lining and press the top seam. Press the whole bag, ensuring the seam is central at the back.

2 Trim rectangles, 16cm x 21cm from the other printed fabric and the plain. Place right sides together and sew all around, leaving a 5cm gap in one side. Clip the corners and turn out. Press, folding in the raw edges of the gap as you do so. Topstitch the top long edge.

3 Place a sheet of card inside the bag and pin the pocket to the front, 8cm up from the bottom edge with the topstitched edge at the top. Topstitch the remaining three sides of the pocket to the bag, taking care not to trap the back in the stitching as you do so.

4 Snip two strips of plain fabric, 3cm x 51cm, and join end to end to make a continuous strip. Fold in half lengthways and sew down the long edge to make piping. Turn out and press. Fold over the top 1.5cm of the bag and pin so the lining is visible on the outside. Topstitch to create a channel, leaving a 3cm gap in the stitching at the centre back. Turn the bag inside out.

5 Use a bodkin to thread the piping through the channel. Take the ends of the piping and pull out through the bottom of the bag. Fold up the lining and pin along the bottom of the printed fabric only, securing the ends of the piping in the corners. Stitch along the bottom edge.

6 Pull the printed fabric out of the way then fold down the lining, turning in 1cm along the bottom edge and topstitching together to close. Turn the bag right sides out and press. Pull the drawstring to close the bag and create shoulder straps.

DESIGNER **JANE KHARADE**

Dragon toy

Whisk your little one on a magical adventure with our mythical make

KIT LIST

★ Cotton: turquoise dyed, pale turquoise, orange, fat quarters ★ Felt, blue, purple, aqua ★ Turquoise yarn ★ Wadding ★ Toy stuffing ★ Small safety eyes, two

Size: 37cm x 54cm

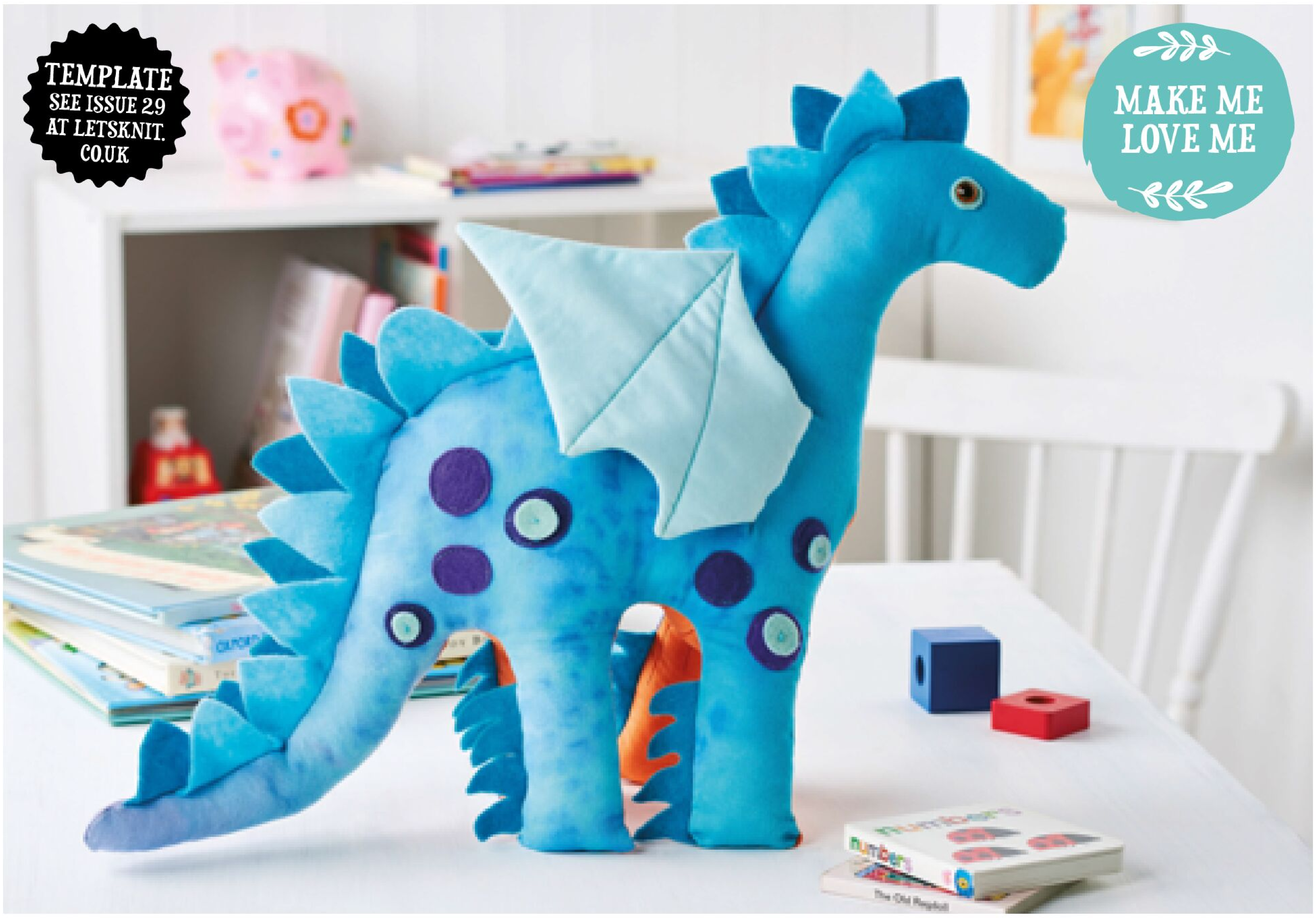
1 Go to letsknit.co.uk to download the templates. Cut two dragon bodies from turquoise dyed fabric, reversing one, two wings from pale turquoise fabric and the two belly sections from orange. Cut out two contrasting pieces of blue felt for the spines and four felt trims for the legs. Snip circles of felt in varying sizes for the spots in two shades.

2 Press in a 5mm seam allowance along the top of the two tummy pieces. Pin together and stitch leaving a gap where indicated on the pattern. Reinforce each side of the gap. Pin the belly section to a 34cm x 38cm piece of wadding. To create a quilted effect, sew rows of stitching using red thread. Trim the wadding to fit, then trim around the gap.

3 Pin wadding 17cm x 26cm to one of the wings, and stitch as close to the edge of the fabric as possible. Lay the wing wadding side down, then stitch an 18cm x 27cm piece of pale turquoise fabric to this sandwich, just inside the original stitch line and leave a gap where indicated. Trim the wadding and pale turquoise fabric and turn out. Topstitch and press, then repeat for the second wing.

4 Machine stitch purple spots to each side of the dragon body using contrasting thread. Layer with a smaller aqua spot and secure with turquoise yarn. Pin one of the felt spines to the right side of the dragon. Position along the back facing down and machine stitch close to the edge. Pin and stitch the other felt spine staggering in between the first set. Stitch the felt leg trim to each leg, again facing inwards.

5 Pin the bodies right sides together and mark out the position of the wings. Use sharp scissors to cut through the back and front pieces together. Insert each wing and machine sew in place



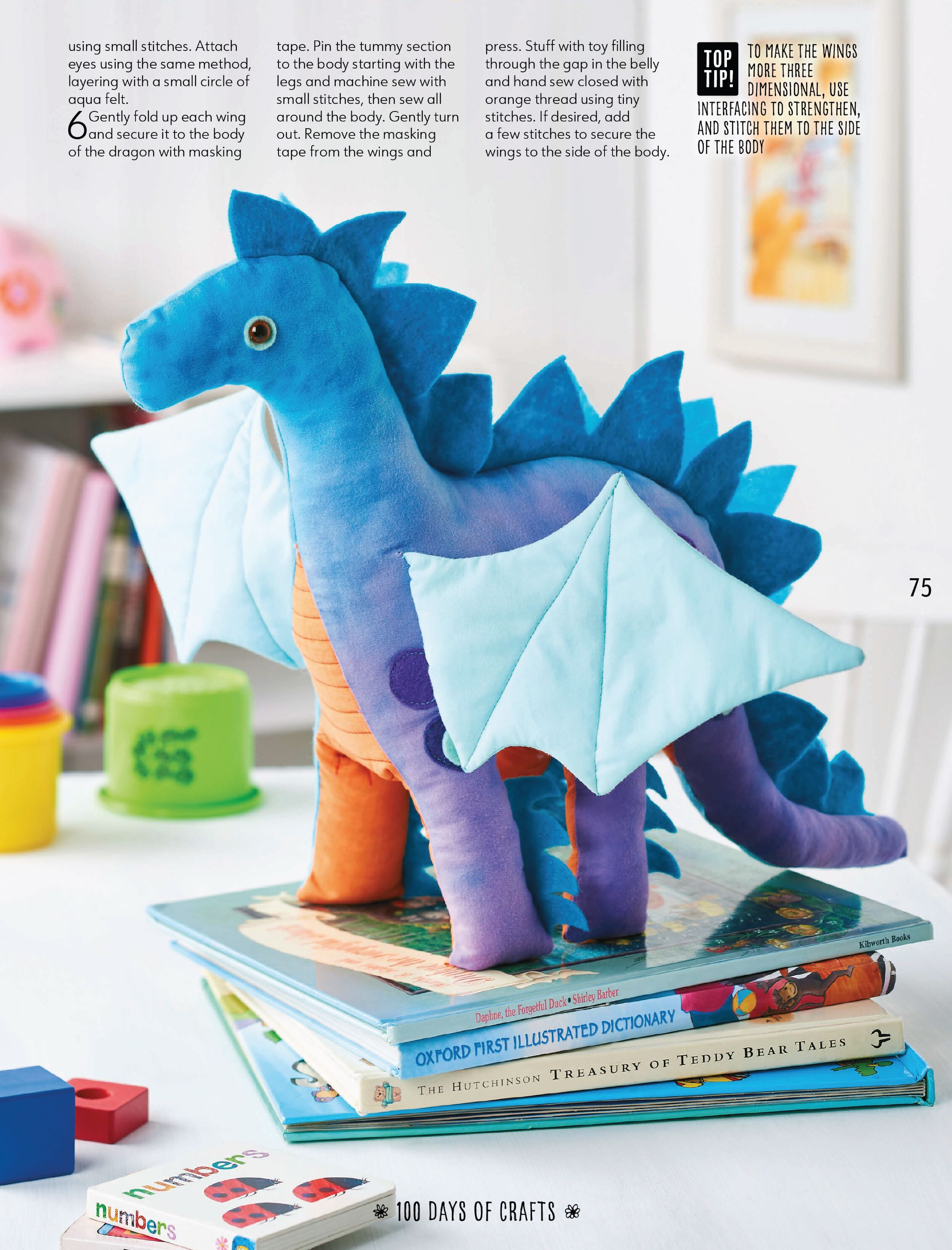
TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

MAKE ME LOVE ME

using small stitches. Attach eyes using the same method, layering with a small circle of aqua felt.

6 Gently fold up each wing and secure it to the body of the dragon with masking tape. Pin the tummy section to the body starting with the legs and machine sew with small stitches, then sew all around the body. Gently turn out. Remove the masking tape from the wings and press. Stuff with toy filling through the gap in the belly and hand sew closed with orange thread using tiny stitches. If desired, add a few stitches to secure the wings to the side of the body.

TOP TIP! TO MAKE THE WINGS MORE THREE DIMENSIONAL, USE INTERFACING TO STRENGTHEN, AND STITCH THEM TO THE SIDE OF THE BODY


Kibworth Books
Daphne, the Forgetful Duck • Shirley Barber
OXFORD FIRST ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY
THE HUTCHINSON TREASURY OF TEDDY BEAR TALES
numbers
numbers

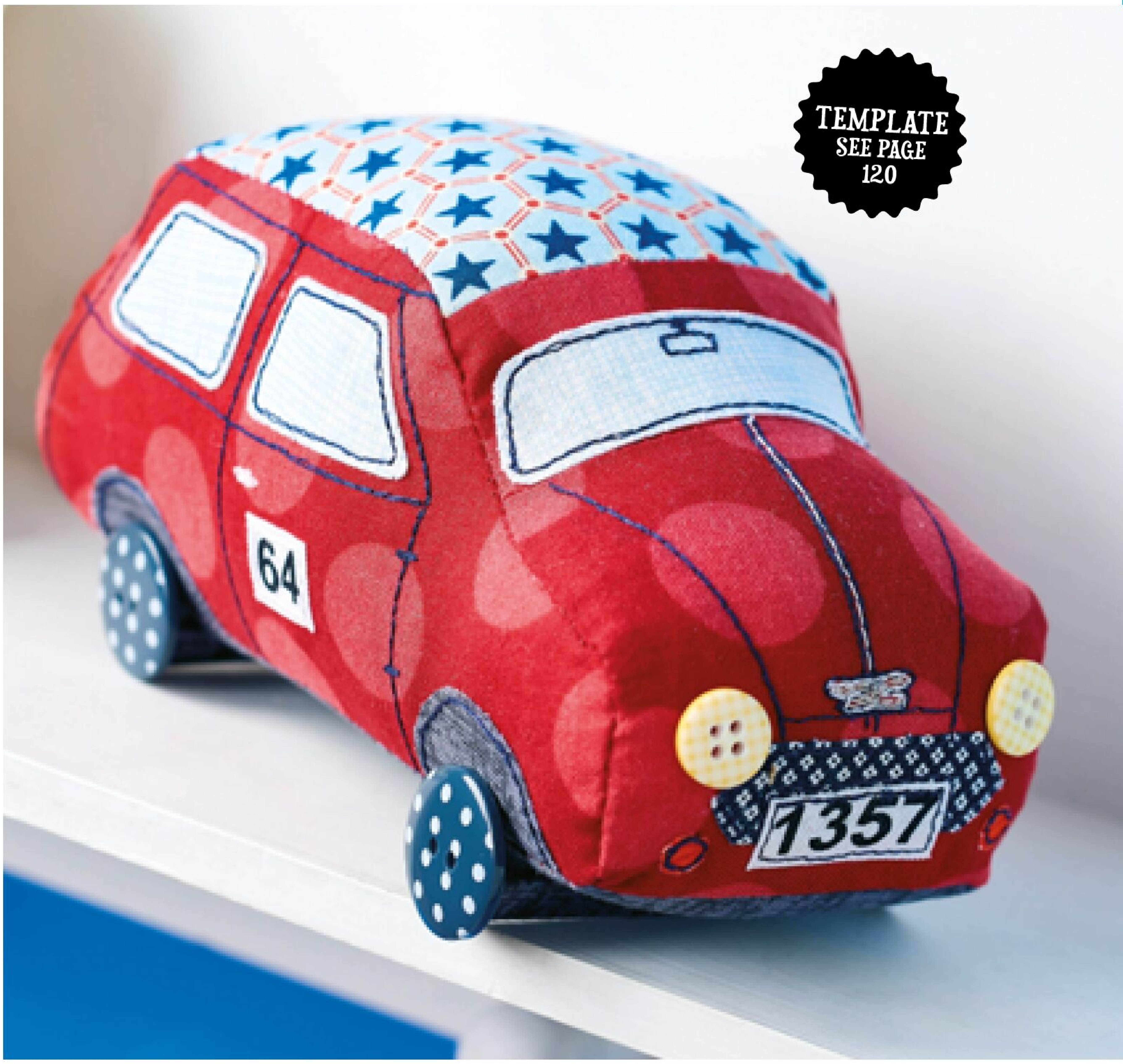
DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Car plushie

Let your budding racer test drive our motoring mascot

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: red spotty; star; pale blue crosshatch; grey textured; numbered; black; black and white patterned; orange; white ★ Interfacing, fusible, lightweight ★ Card ★ Ric-rac, green ★ Ribbon, blue ★ Buttons: yellow, four; grey spotty, four ★ Toy filling ★ Adhesives: foam pads; glitter glue; acid-free stick glue ★ Plastic lid



TEMPLATE
SEE PAGE
120

TOY CAR

1 Use the templates from our pattern pages to cut out a rear window, front windscreen and two sets of side windows in pale blue crosshatch fabric – remember to turn the templates over for the other side of the vehicle. Back them all with interfacing.

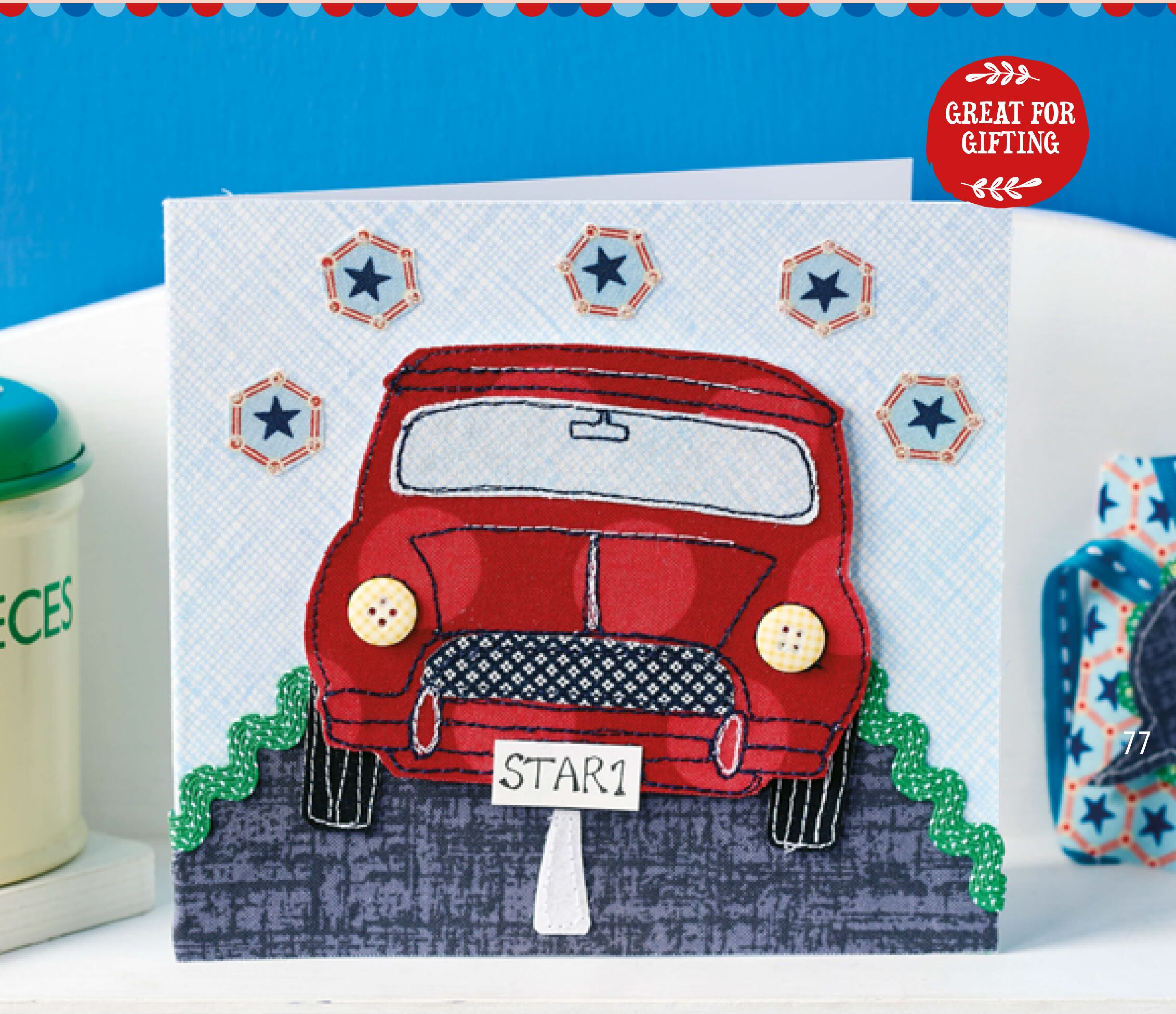
2 Trim a roof from star print fabric, followed by the front and rear of the car from red spot. Sew the roof between the front and rear pieces so that you have a long stitched section. Press the seams open. Machine stitch the front and rear windscreens in place with navy thread, using the template as a guide. Just beneath the front windscreen, fold the car bonnet up over it and stitch a 2mm seam across the width just under the windscreen edge in red to help give more shape when stuffed. Lay the bonnet back down.

3 Cut out two car sides from red spot and machine stitch the side windows in place using navy thread. Iron on the reverse. Machine stitch a fabric printed number to the doors.

4 From orange fabric, cut two small circles to mimic front indicators and stitch in place with red thread. Cut out the back brake/indicators from orange and white, then sew. Trim numbers for the number plates, interface and secure with white thread. Cut a black and white front grill and stitch, then add the front number plate on top. Iron on the reverse. Sew all the detailed lines in navy thread, then create a rectangle in navy around the rear number plate for a boot. Machine or hand stitch door handles and hinges. Iron again.

5 Cut out four wheel arches from grey fabric and sew with grey thread. Take the two car sides and stitch all the straight lines in navy. To make up, take one side and pin the middle of where the roof will join to the middle of the star roof section so the raw edges are together. Carefully manipulate the side around the edge of the long section, pinning as you go and working your way down the back and front of the car. Stitch in place. Repeat this for the other side. You should be left with a 5mm flap at the base of the car bottom. Trim any excess fabric, snip into the curves and turn out.

6 For the underside of the car, cut a strip of grey fabric, 7.5cm x 16cm. Pin one short end right sides together with the 5mm flap at the



bottom front of the bonnet and stitch a 5mm seam. Pin each long edge of the grey strip, right sides together, along each side of the bottom and stitch a 5mm seam. Turn out. Stuff firmly and, just before you close the gap, insert a piece of plastic cut to the same size as the car bottom.

7 Hand stitch two yellow buttons as headlights and fill the button holes with glitter glue. Make two axles from thin card by cutting two strips the same width as the bottom of the car and 3.5cm long. Score across the width three times at 1cm intervals. Fold each strip into a triangle and secure the remaining 5mm flap with glue. Cover each axle with grey fabric and stick each one between the front and back wheel arches. Adhere a grey spotty button to each end and allow to dry.

APPLIQUÉ CARD

1 Create a white side-opening card blank, 13.5cm x 15cm. Use an acid-free glue stick to cover the front with blue crosshatch fabric. On the fold, overlap the fabric onto the back by 1cm. Using the template, create a grey fabric road and adhere on top. Trim the two raw side edges with ric-rac.

2 Cut out a car from red spot fabric and stick to thin card, which is a little bigger. Leave to dry. Stitch the details, then go around the perimeter with navy thread. Trim a windscreen from crosshatch, interface and stitch in place using navy. Stick a black front grill in place and make a number plate by writing on a small strip of card.

3 Trim the excess card and mount onto the blank at a slight angle using foam pads. Stick on two buttons for headlights. Cut two wheels from black fabric, mount onto slightly larger card as before, and stitch the detail in white. Trim the excess card and stick them below the base of the car.

4 Cut five stars from fabric and stick them around the top of the car. Stitch a white road marker to the middle of the road. Add dots of glitter glue around the stars and in the button holes to finish.

WHY NOT TRY...

Personalise the car by featuring the recipient's name on the number plates

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Baby rattles

This sweet trio will keep little ones entertained and can easily be made from fabric scraps!

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton: patterns, plains ★ Rattle insert ★ Toy filling ★ Embroidery thread and needle ★ Ribbons

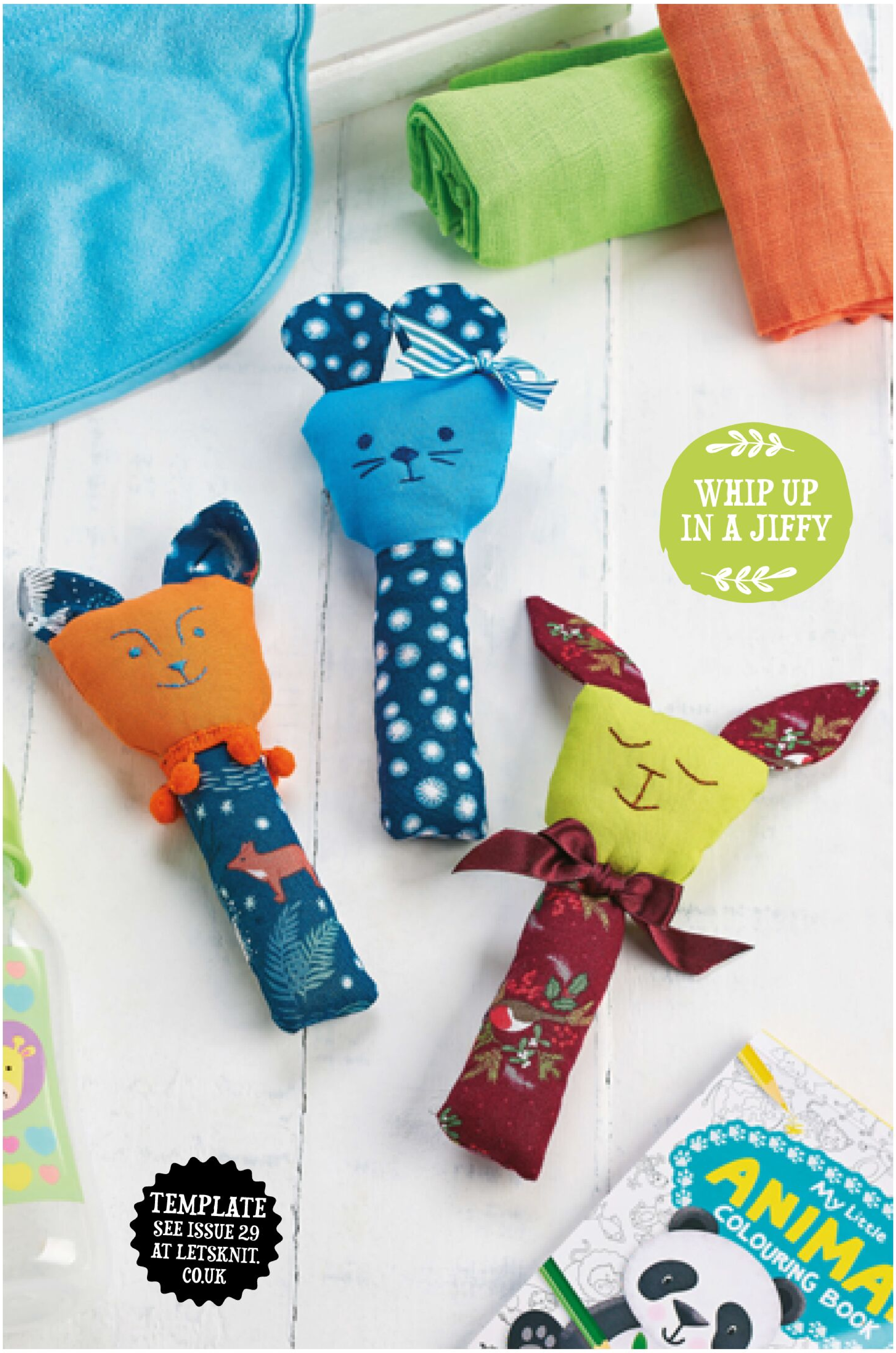
1 Cut two handles and two heads to template from fabric. Stitch a head to the top of each handle, RS together. Cut two pairs each of the fox, mouse or rabbit ears. Sew two ear pieces RS together, leaving the bottom edge open. Turn RS out, then press. Repeat with the other pair.

2 Tack the ears to the top of one head, matching up the raw edges. Pin and sew the second head over the first, RS together, making sure that the tops of the ears don't get caught in the stitching. Leave 4cm along one edge of the handle open for turning.

3 Clip the curves, then turn the rattle RS out. Stuff the head, adding a rattle insert in the centre. Stuff the handle firmly, then fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip stitch it closed.

4 Use three strands of thread to embroider facial features, with running stitch for the thin lines and satin stitch for fuller areas. Sew a ribbon bow to one ear or around the neck.

TOP TIP! SAFETY FIRST: IF IN DOUBT LEAVE OFF THE BOWS AND EMBELLISHMENTS, AND MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING IS STITCHED SECURELY IN PLACE


WHIP UP IN A JIFFY
TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK
My Little ANIMAL COLOURING BOOK

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

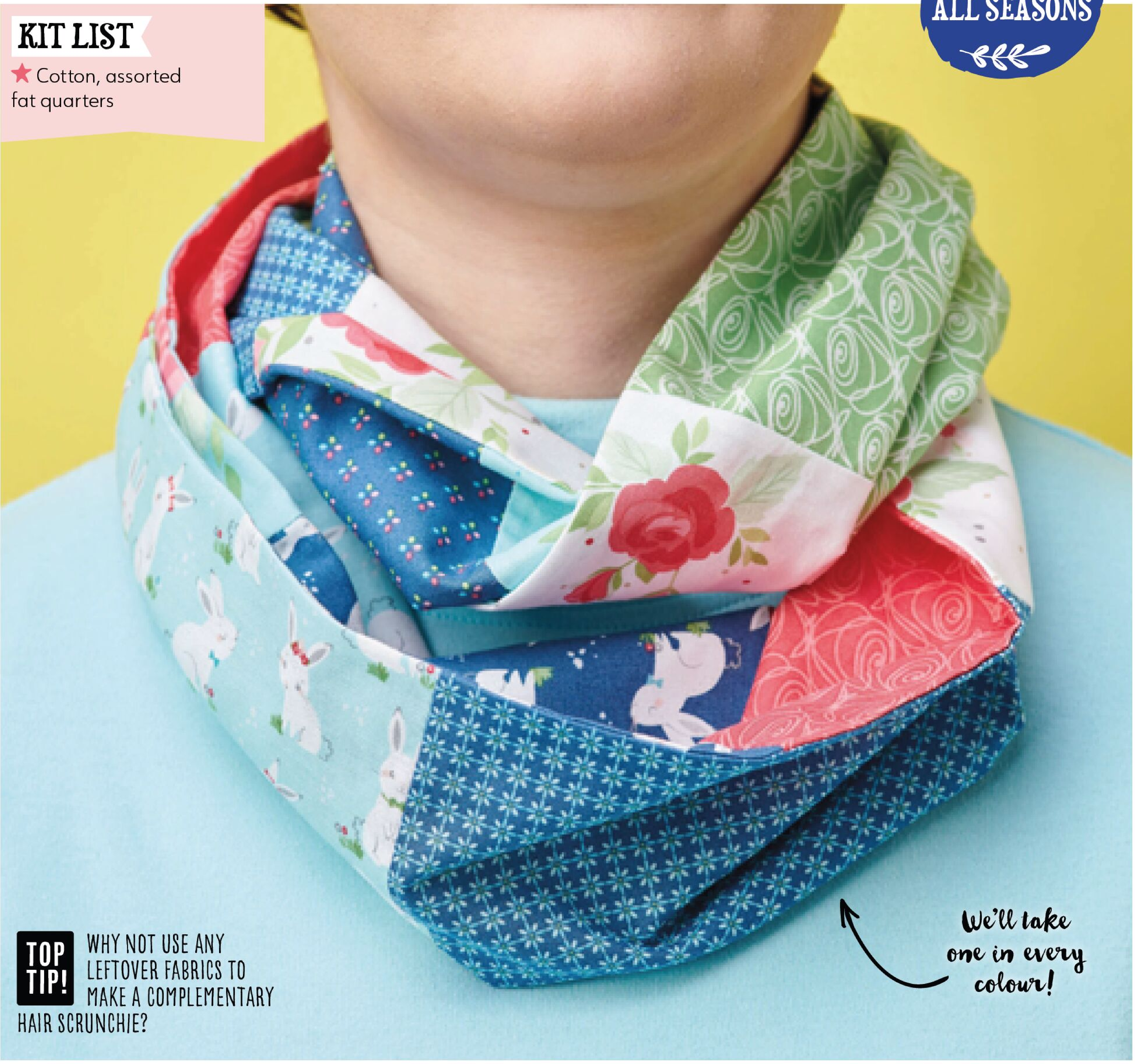
Infinity scarf

Pick a next-level fat quarter bundle to make this outfit gamechanger

STYLE FOR ALL SEASONS

KIT LIST

- ★ Cotton, assorted fat quarters



TOP TIP! WHY NOT USE ANY LEFTOVER FABRICS TO MAKE A COMPLEMENTARY HAIR SCRUNCHIE?

1 Cut two rectangles, 16cm x 21cm, from eight different fabrics. Take one set, decide on the order and sew right sides together on the long edges to make a strip. Match the second set to the first, then move the last three panels to the beginning of the set before joining into a strip as before. Press all seams open.

2 Place the strips right sides together, offsetting the joins by half a panel. Sew down both long sides, leaving the spare half panel unstitched at both ends. Turn right sides out and press.

3 Make a double twist in the scarf, then marry up the half-panel ends to complete the loop. With right sides together, pin one long and two short edges of one end panel into its opposite, then working inside the gap of the unpinned long seam, machine-stitch these edges together. Fold in 5mm on the edges of the gap and finger-press. Pin together and hand-sew closed with small slip stitches.

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Unicorn set

This fantastical character is sure to put a smile on your little one's face

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, cotton, printed fat quarters ★ Lightweight quilt wadding ★ Fibre filling ★ Buttons ★ Elastic, 5mm ★ Fusible appliqué sheet

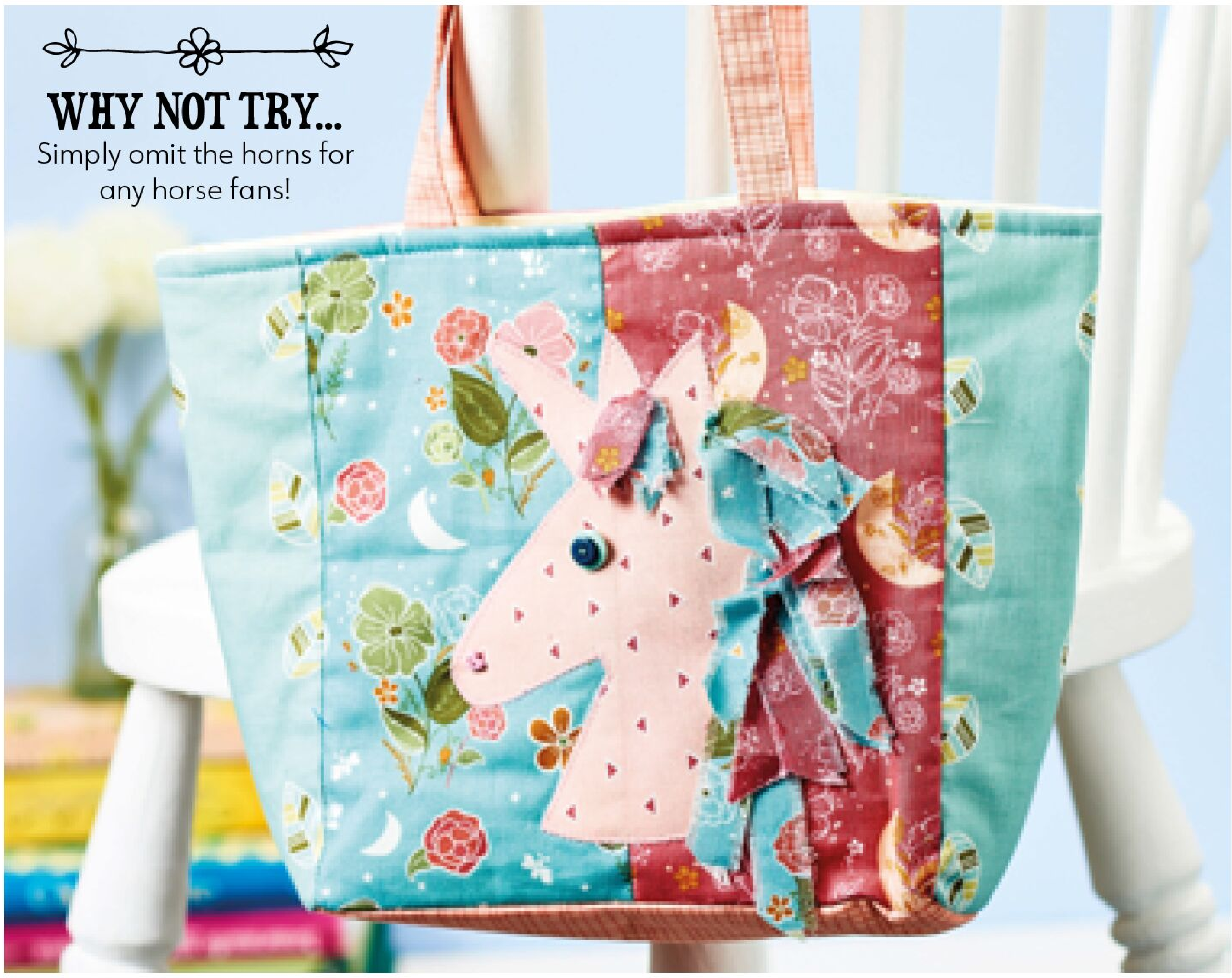
UNICORN TOTE

1 Download and print the templates from letsknit.co.uk. Cut two 11cm x 25cm pieces from three different fabrics. Sew right sides together on the long edges in an alternating pattern to make a 25cm x 62cm strip. Press and pin onto quilt wadding before topstitching down each seam. Cut out and trace the unicorn head silhouette onto the paper side of fusible appliqué sheet. Iron the sheet onto the back of contrasting fabric, cut out and peel away the backing paper. Fuse the appliqué to the centre line between two panels of the bag body and topstitch in place with a small zig-zag.

2 Cut an 11cm x 21cm panel of fabric and sew it to the quilt wadding around all edges to make a base. Fold the bag panel in half, right sides together, and stitch the final seam to make a tube. Keeping the tube inside out, sew one long side of the base piece to the bottom edge of the appliquéd panels, right sides together. Stitch the other long side to the opposite two body panels then check the fit of the remaining short sections against each other before completing the base and turning the bag right sides out.

3 Create a bag lining in the same way as the outer from a 25cm x 62cm panel of fabric and a base, 11cm x 21cm, leaving a 10cm gap in one long seam joining the base to the body. Make two straps by folding in 1cm on the long edges of 7cm x 50cm strips. Fold the strips in half to match up the hems and topstitch. Tack the straps to the top edge of the bag outer, matching the raw edges. Slip the lining over the outer so right sides are facing and sew all around the top, adding extra stitches to where the handles are tacked.

4 Turn the bag out through the gap in the lining and push out the corners. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and topstitch closed. Push the lining into the bag and topstitch around the top of the bag to neaten. Cut narrow strips of fabric and fray before sewing to the appliqué at the front of the bag as a mane. Sew small buttons to the appliqué to represent an eye and nostril.



WHY NOT TRY...

Simply omit the horns for any horse fans!

UNICORN TOY

1 Trace the body piece onto the reverse of right sides together fabric, adding a 5mm seam allowance all round. Stitch the darts at the top and bottom of each body piece before sewing them right sides together, leaving a 5cm gap along the back of the neck. Clip the curves, turn out, and stuff firmly before folding in the edges of the gap and slip-stitching closed.

2 Place two different fabrics right sides together and trace arm and leg pattern pieces onto the reverse, flipping the template to make mirrored pairs. Cut out adding a 5mm seam allowance and sew together leaving a 3cm gap in the upper back of each limb. Clip the curves, turn out, and stuff before closing the gap with a slipstitch.

3 Pin the limbs to the body and secure them with button joints using a double thickness of thread and coordinating buttons. Sew more buttons to either side of the face and nose to create eyes and nostrils. Cut out horn pieces and stitch right sides together leaving the flat bottom edge open. Fold up and glue the bottom 5mm before turning out and stuffing. Pin the hemmed edge to the

APPLIQUÉ ADVICE

★ Carefully press your fabric pieces before stitching for a neat finish.

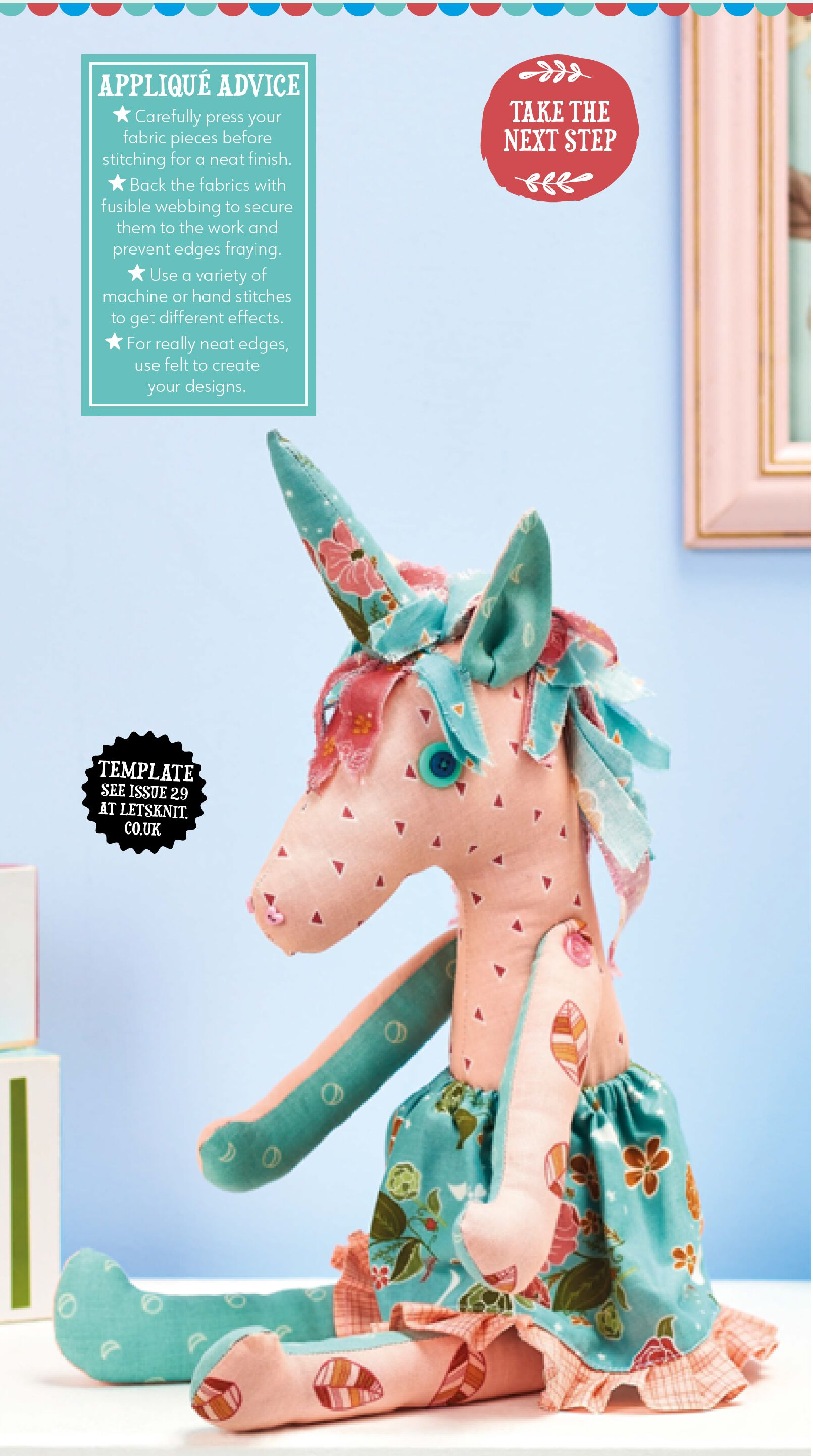
★ Back the fabrics with fusible webbing to secure them to the work and prevent edges fraying.

★ Use a variety of machine or hand stitches to get different effects.

★ For really neat edges, use felt to create your designs.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK



top of the head and oversew all the way round, adding more stuffing if necessary, before closing the seam.

4 Cut two pairs of ears from different fabrics and stitch right sides together, leaving the bottom flat edge open. Turn out, turn in the raw edges and press. Make a pleat in the bottom edge of each ear and oversew to either side of the head just behind the horn.

5 Cut several strips of fabric along the grain, 2.5cm wide. Cut into 7-10cm lengths and fray out 2-3mm on both sides of the strip. Fold each strip in half and stitch to the seam line along the back of the neck, gathering the fabric at the fold to make a mane. Sew a few shorter lengths around the base of the horn to make a fringe. Stitch longer frayed lengths to the base of the body to make a tail.

6 To make the unicorn's skirt, cut a 12.5cm x 50cm piece of fabric and a contrasting print for the frill, 3cm x 1m (joining two 50.5cm lengths if necessary). Fold up and hem 5mm on the lower edge of the frill. Pin the raw edge of the frill to the lower edge of the skirt right sides together, starting from the centre of each and pleating the longer piece. Sew in place, fold out and press the seams to the skirt side before topstitching 1mm from the seam.

7 Fold the frilled skirt panel right sides together and sew down the back seam, leaving 3cm unstitched at the top. Fold in the raw edges of the unsewn part and glue before folding down the top edge by 5mm and 10mm to make a double hem. Topstitch the hem close to the fold and thread the resulting channel with narrow elastic, tied to fit around the unicorn's waist.

TOP TIP! USE A STRAIGHT PIN TO FRAY THE EDGES OF YOUR FABRIC STRIPS

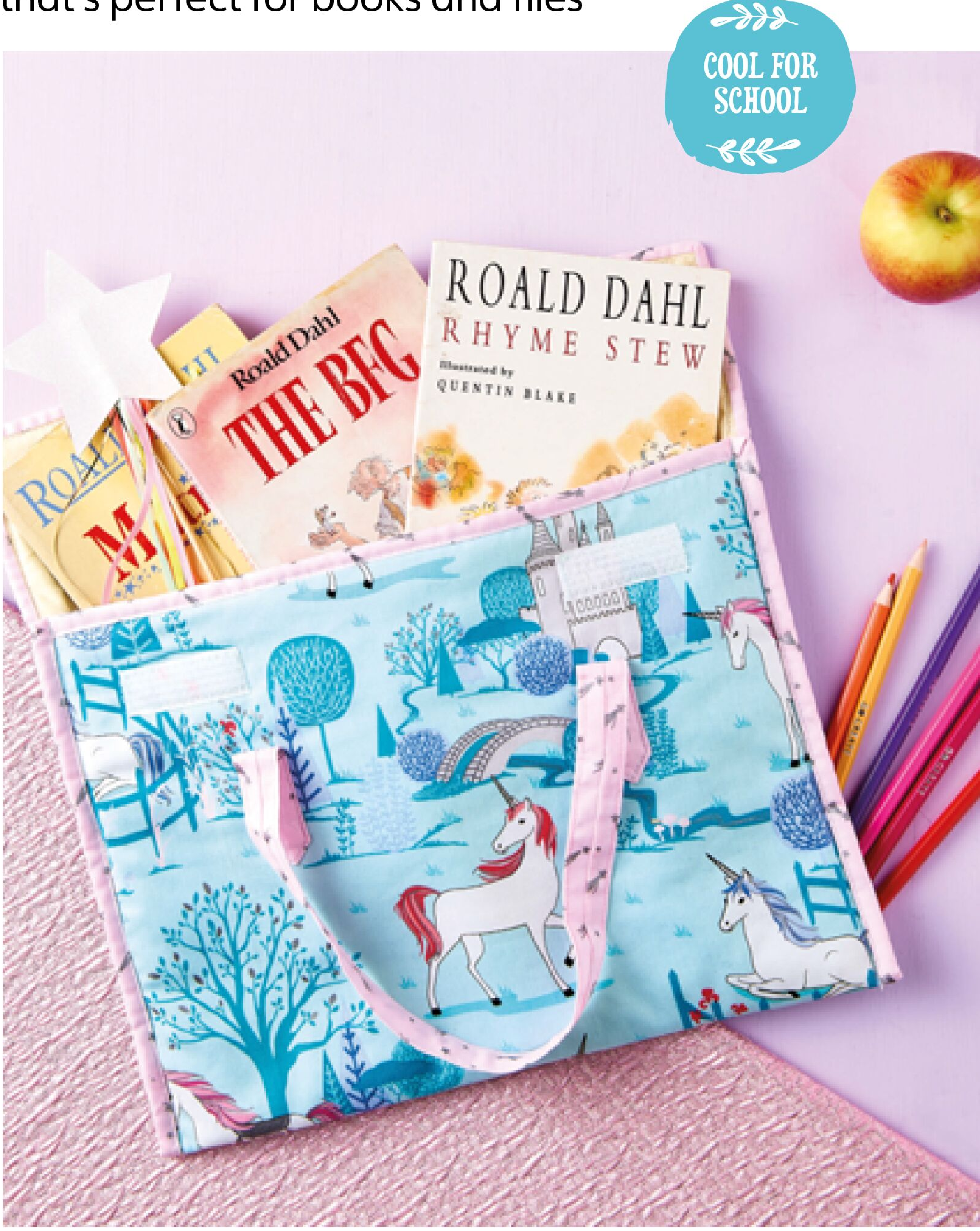
DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Book satchel

Encourage a love of reading with a cute bag that's perfect for books and files

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: My Unicorn collection; patterned, plain, silver cotton ★ Lightweight cotton wadding ★ Hook and loop fastener


COOL FOR SCHOOL

1 Cut two fabric panels, 25cm x 33cm, and a third piece, 10cm x 33cm, to make the front, back and flap of the bag. Sew the top edge of the flap to the top edge of the bag back, right sides together, checking the orientation is correct when the flap is closed. Sew the bottom edges of the front and back pieces together in the same way, then press the seams to one side and topstitch to strengthen.

2 Layer the panel onto pieces of wadding and plain lining material the same size as the fabric. Pin and zig-zag stitch together around all four edges. Cut several 3cm wide strips of co-ordinating fabric and join them end to end to make a continuous strip. Use this to bind the edges of the panel before sewing to the reverse, then fold it over to the front 5mm in from the edge and topstitch.

3 Cut two fabric strips, 5cm x 50cm. Fold in half lengthways, right sides together, and sew down the long sides. Turn out and press so the seam lays down the middle of the strap. Topstitch both edges, 2mm from the sides, then fold in and tack the bottom corners to make a neat point.

4 Fold up the padded panel. Position and pin the straps to the back and front, ensuring they do not interfere with the flap. Cut two 5cm long pairs of hook and loop fastening strips, and pin one on the inside flap and another on the outside front of the bag. Open out and topstitch the straps and fastenings in place.

5 Re-fold the bag, taking care to line up the sides accurately. Topstitch the sides together just inside the line of the binding, adding extra stitches to the top of each seam where it will be under greater stress.

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Crafty carry-all

Whip up a seven-section basket that's ideal for toting all your essentials

KIT LIST

★ Cotton fabric, print and coordinating print ★ Medium-weight felt wadding ★ Felt: navy

Size: 22cm x 24cm

1 Cut two 11cm squares and three 11cm x 21cm rectangles of striped fabric. Place each piece face-up onto felt wadding and zig-zag stitch around the edges.

2 Trim two 8.5cm x 24cm pieces of contrasting red fabric and two 10.5cm x 24cm pieces of navy felt. Pair up and sew, right sides together, along one long edge. Open out and fold the right sides of the fabric over so the raw edges line up and there is a band of felt along the top edge. Topstitch along the bottom edge of this band.

3 Repeat with two 8.5cm x 14cm pieces of the same fabric and two 10.5cm x 14cm pieces of felt. Tack a pocket piece to both ends of edges of the remaining striped rectangle. Match up the side seams and sew. Turn right sides out. Cut three each striped panel. Make tucks in the bases of the pockets and tack down along the bottom edge to fit. Topstitch down the centre of the longer pockets if desired.

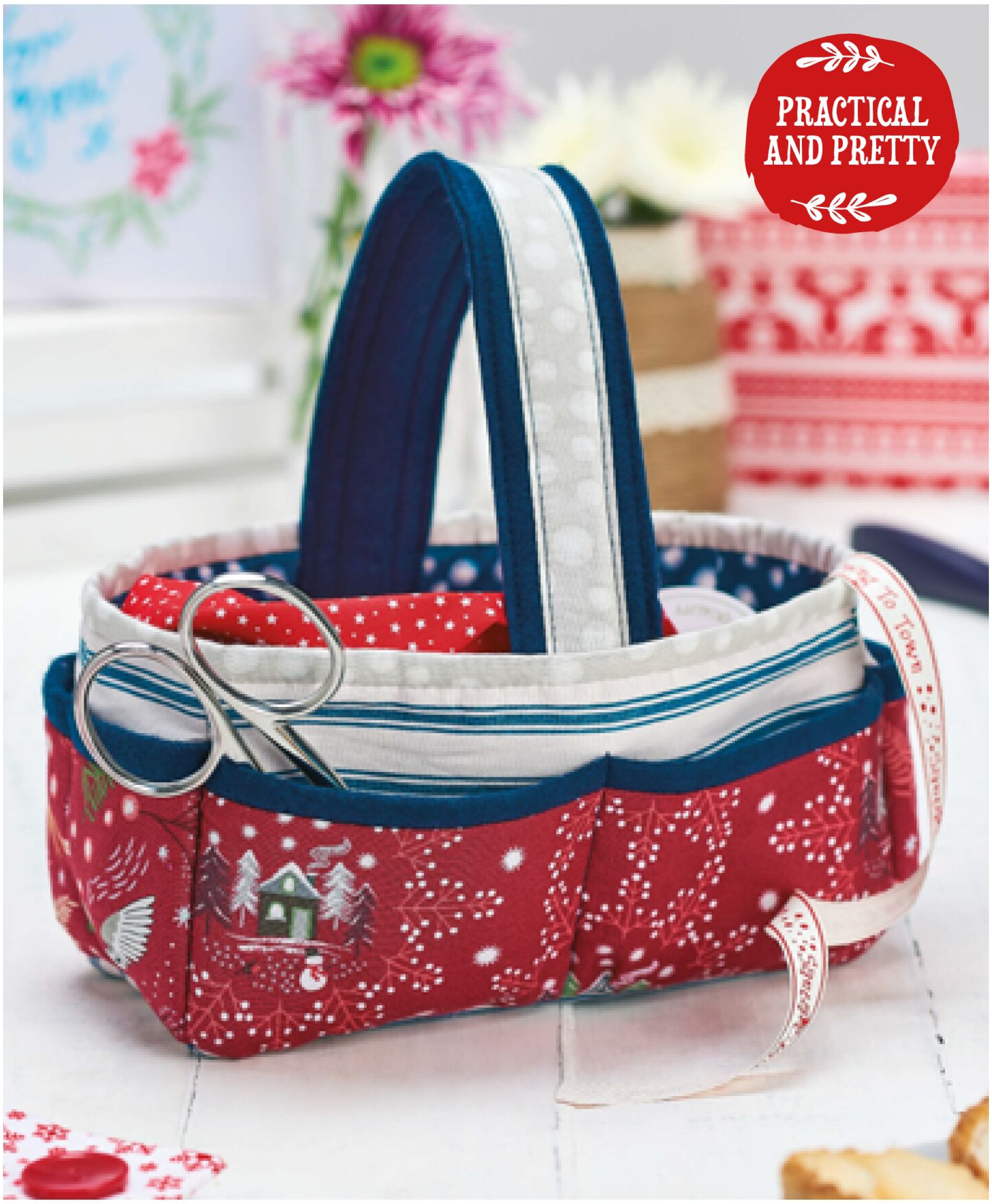
4 With right sides together, pin the panels to the four rectangles and two squares from the lining fabric as for the striped one, then sew together and slip inside the basket, tacking around the top.

5 Join several 3cm wide strips of fabric end-to-end to make binding. Sew this around the top of the bag on the right side. Turn under 5mm of the raw edge, fold over the edge of the basket and slip stitch to the inside.

6 Cut one 4cm x 35cm strip of fabric and two of felt for the handle. Topstitch the two pieces of felt together, 3mm from each long edge. Fold under 7mm along each long edge of the fabric strip and topstitch this down the centre of the felt handle. Pin and stitch the ends of the handle to the inside of the basket.

WHY NOT TRY...

This would make a great themed gift hamper – fill it with the recipient's favourite foods, toiletries or hobby items



PRACTICAL AND PRETTY

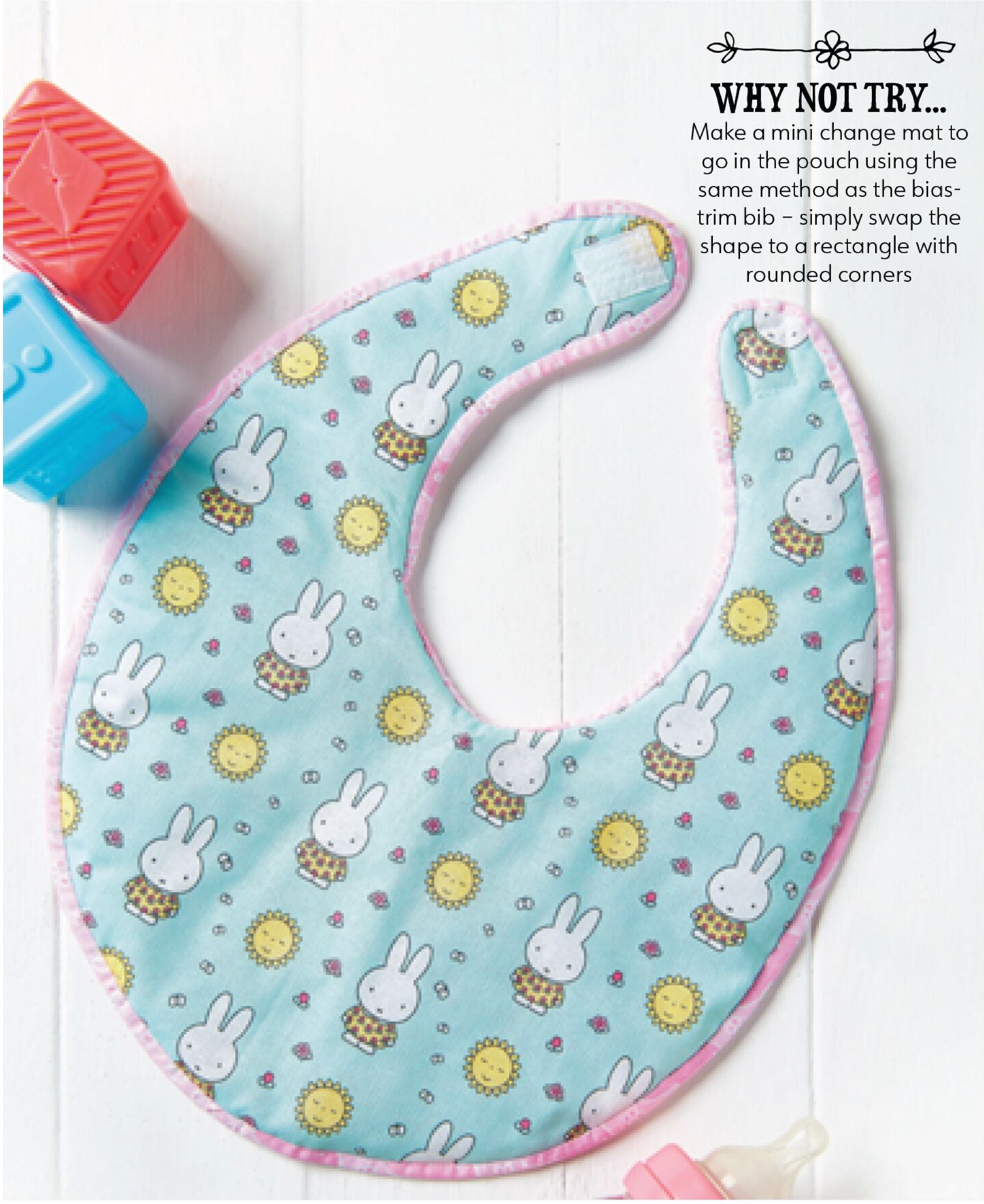
DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Baby essentials

Welcome a new arrival with our practical projects – a bib, a pair of loose-fit pantaloons and a mini changing pouch

KIT LIST

- Fabric: Miffy collection
- Plain cotton lining
- Lightweight quilt wadding
- Hook and loop tape
- Pom-pom trim
- Buttons
- Narrow elastic



WHY NOT TRY...

Make a mini change mat to go in the pouch using the same method as the bias-trim bib – simply swap the shape to a rectangle with rounded corners

BABY BIBS

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Using the template, cut bib shapes from printed and plain cotton. Pin right sides together and sew with a 5mm seam allowance, leaving a 5cm gap in the lower curved edge. Clip the curves, turn right sides out and press.

2 For a pom-pom trim bib (not pictured) fold in the edges of the gap and topstitch around the shape, 2mm in from the edge. Cut two small rectangles of hook and loop fastening and stitch one to the front of a top point and another to the reverse side. Hand-stitch or topstitch a length of pom-pom trim around the edge of the bib.

3 For the bias trim bib pictured, cut the shape out from lining, wadding and printed cotton. Layer them together, right sides facing out, and pin. Sew around the shape with a 5mm seam allowance.

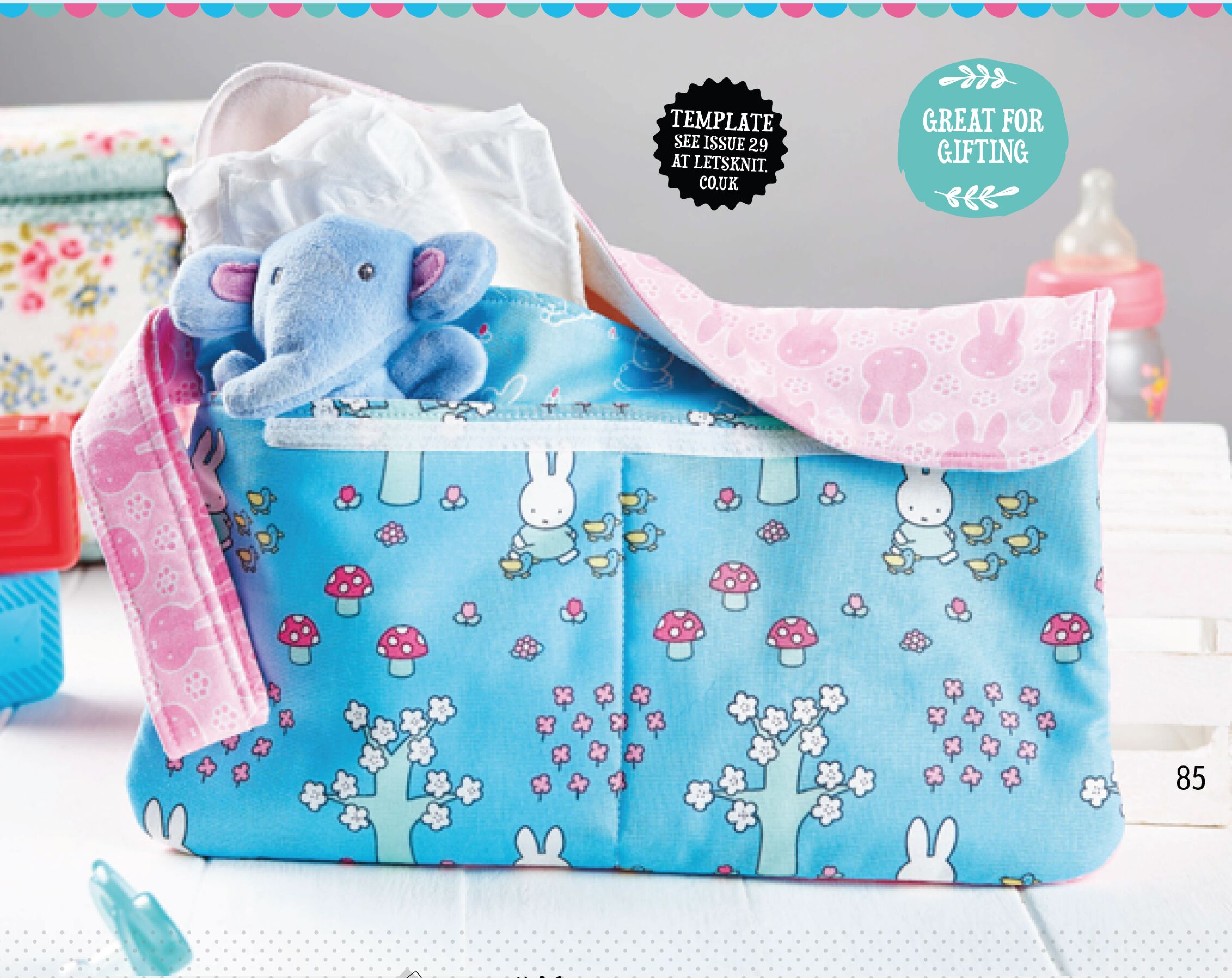
4 Cut several 2cm wide strips in contrast fabric and join them end to end. Stitch this around the edge of the front of the bib, right sides facing, easing it around the curves.

5 Turn the binding to the back of the bib, fold under 5mm on the raw edge and slip-stitch to the lining. Add strips of the hook and loop fastener to the top points of the bib as before.

CHANGE BAG

1 From printed cotton, wadding and lining, cut a front pocket, front panel and back panel. Layer up the separate pieces, right side facing, with the wadding at the bottom. Sew along the top edge of the front pocket and the front panel. Stitch from mark to mark around the top flap of the back panel, then clip the curves.

2 Turn the pieces right side out and topstitch 3mm from the seam lines. Press the panels, trim the unsewn edges and zig-zag stitch around the raw edges. Cut two long pieces of hook and loop fastener, then sew one to the right side top



TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

GREAT FOR GIFTING

"Keep all of your little one's essentials to hand with this Velcro pouch"

CORINNE BRADD DESIGNER

edge of the front pocket and the other to the inside of the flap on the back panel.

3 Cut fabric, 8cm x 36cm. Fold in half, right sides together, on the long axis and pin to wadding, 4cm x 36cm. Sew down the long edge and turn out so the wadding is inside the tube. Topstitch both long sides to hold the wadding in place and fold in half to make a loop strap.

4 Layer the front pocket onto the front panel and sew down the centre to make two pockets. Lay the folded strap along the top edge of the front panel, matching up the raw edges. Place the bag back face down over the stack, matching the bottom of the flap to the top of the front panel.

5 Pin and sew around the sides and base, ensuring at least 5mm of each layer is caught in the seam. Clip the curves and turn right side out.

PANTALOONS

1 Using the templates, cut four pieces, 11cm x 40cm, and four 8cm x 40cm. Sew right sides together on the long edges to make two panels of patchwork, each with two narrower strips in the centre. Press the seams to one side and topstitch to prevent excessive fraying.

2 Place right sides together, matching up the seams, and cut out the pantaloon pattern. Keeping the pieces right sides together, sew the front and back curves. Open out, match up the bottom point of the curved seam and sew the inside legs together with one continuous seam.

3 Double hem the top edge of the pantaloons and sew

to make a channel, leaving a small gap in the back. Thread narrow elastic through the channel, tighten to the desired waist measurement and stitch the ends together securely. Pop the elastic through the gap and slip-stitch closed.

4 Run two parallel lines of long straight stitch around the bottom of each leg. Pull the top threads of each line to gather up the fabric neatly and knot the threads together when the leg diameter is around 18cm. Cut two strips, 5cm x 20cm. Fold right sides together and sew down the short edge to make loops.

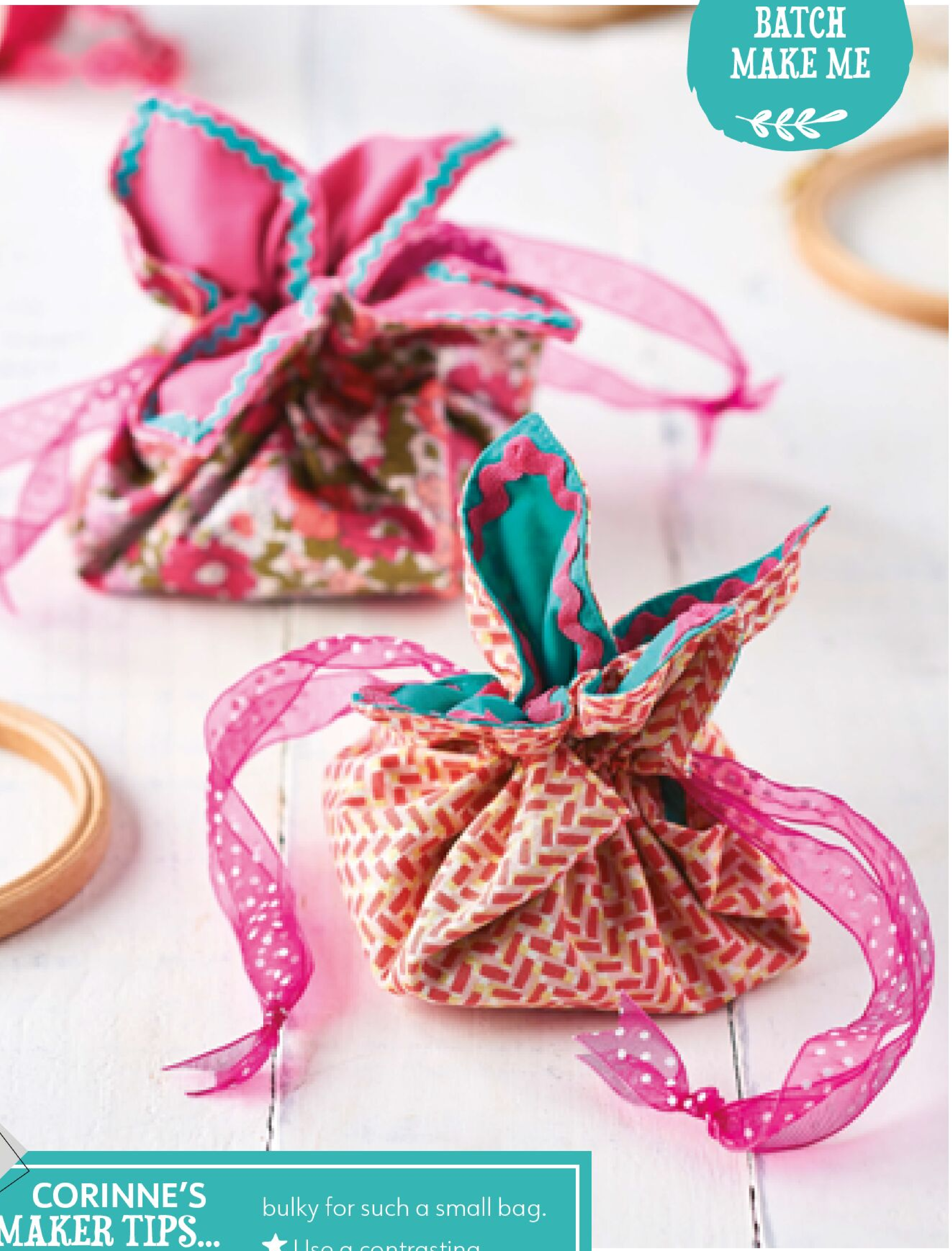
5 Use the loops to bind the bottom of each gathered leg, stitching to the wrong side of the fabric before turning out and under 5mm on the raw edge, then topstitch to the right side. Remove any visible gathering stitches to finish.

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Petal bags

Whip up these colourful bags to present small gifts or treats in style

BATCH MAKE ME



KIT LIST

- Cotton: prints and plain
- Ric-rac trim
- Ribbon: 10mm wide

Size: 10cm x 13cm (medium), 13cm x 14cm (large)

NB: use 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

1 Cut a 26cm or 30cm square each from patterned and plain cotton, then pin right sides together. Stitch around the edges, leaving a 4cm gap in the centre of one edge. Clip the corners and turn right sides out. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and press the square.

2 Topstitch the sides of the square, 2mm from the edges. Measure a third of the way along one side, then fold in and finger press the corner at this mark. Repeat for the other corners to make crease lines at 45° to the square. Topstitch parallel lines 5mm either side of the crease lines to make a channel.

3 Snip a small hole in the lining at the end of each channel. Attach a length of 10mm-wide ribbon to a small safety pin and pass through the channels, fastening the ribbon to itself once back at the beginning. Thread another length through the channels, starting opposite the first drawstring, then tie.

4 Seal the ends of a length of ric-rac braid by holding them close to a flame (but making sure it doesn't touch and burn) to stop them fraying. Hand sew the ric-rac around the inner 'petals' of the bag formed by the corners. Pull both drawstrings in opposite directions to close the bag.

CORINNE'S MAKER TIPS...

- ★ You can increase the size of the starting squares to make a bigger bag to suit your needs!
- ★ Avoid using squares under 20cm unless you are making them from fine lawn fabric – otherwise the gathers will become too bulky for such a small bag.
- ★ Use a contrasting patterned fabric for the lining to make a completely reversible bag.
- ★ Invest in a bodkin if making lots of these bags – this blunt-ended needle makes light work of threading drawstrings through the channels.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Chameleon pal

This charming chap is the perfect cuddle buddy for your little one

KIT LIST

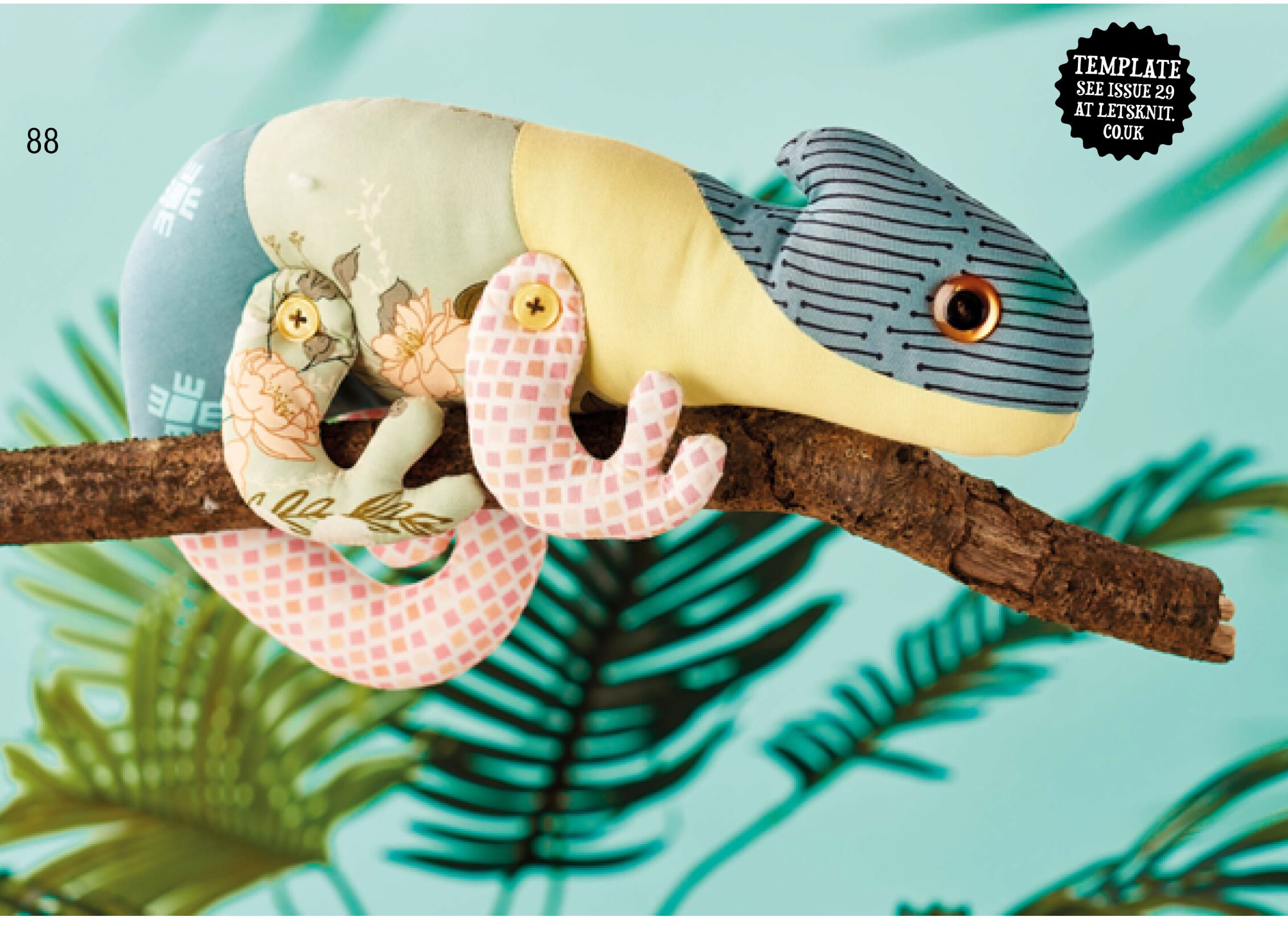
★ Fabric, cotton: printed, plain ★ Fibre filling ★ Extra strong thread ★ Buttons ★ Knitting needle

1 Download the templates at letsknit.co.uk, print and cut out. From five different fabrics, with right sides together, cut the pattern body pieces, adding a 5mm seam allowance to each. Snip two leg pieces each from two different fabrics, with right sides together, making four pairs of pieces in total.

2 Using the lettering on the pattern, match up each body section to its neighbour and sew together, tacking first curves if necessary as the pieces are curved. Place the completed body shapes right sides together and stitch all the way around, leaving a gap in the lower edge of the middle body piece. Clip curves, turn out and press the body before firmly stuffing. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip stitch closed.

3 Match up the leg pieces so that they are each made from two different fabrics. Sew right sides together leaving a small gap in the top back of each leg. Clip angles and turn out with the aid of a knitting needle before stuffing. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip stitch.

4 Fix the legs to either side of the iguana's body with button joints, using extra strong thread for security. Stitch layered buttons to either side of the head to make the eyes.



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

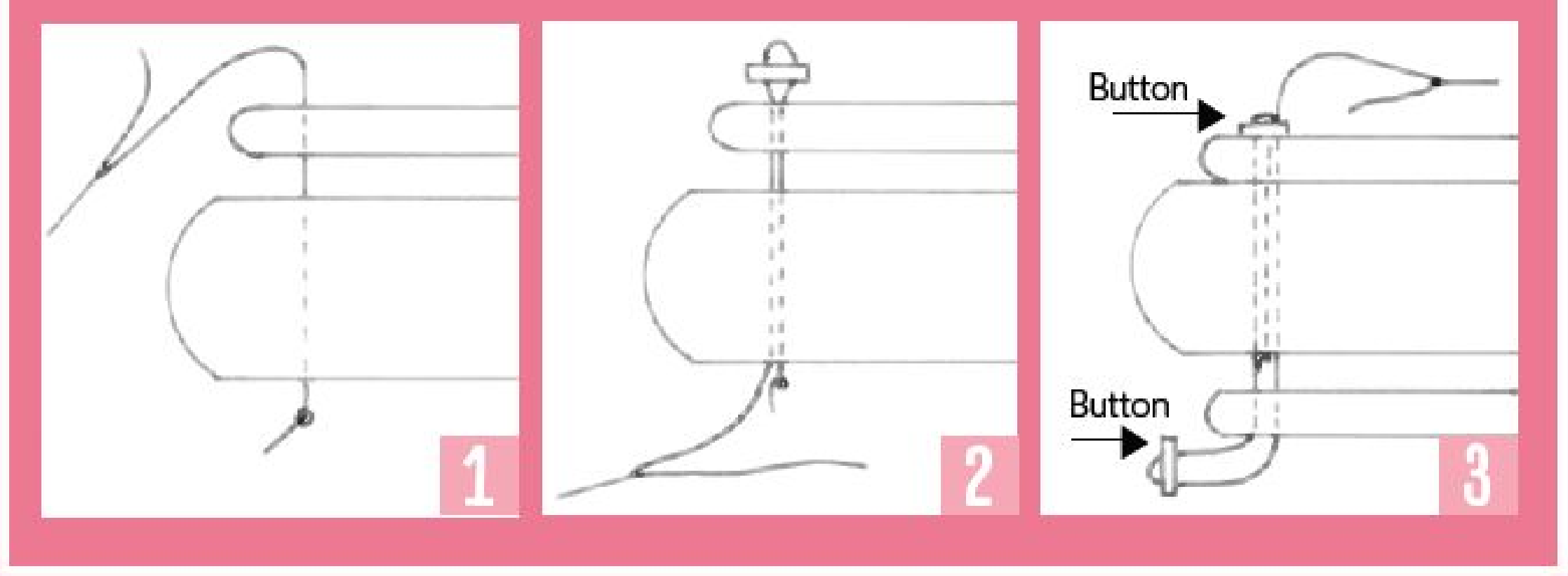
“Remember to tweak the fabric to suit the environment as this colour-changer likes to blend in!”

CORINNE BRADD DESIGNER

MAKE ME LOVE ME

Movable button joint limbs!

CREATE BUTTON JOINTS



DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Breakfast set

Give your mornings a makeover with these country-style kitchen textiles

KIT LIST

- ★ Fabric: Shape of Spring collection for Cloud 9, four fat quarters
- ★ Wadding
- ★ Buttons, assorted
- ★ Thread: black; cream
- ★ Bias binding

Egg basket: 15cm x 18cm;
Hen egg cosy: 10cm x 17cm

EGG BASKET

1 Go to letsknit.co.uk and download the templates. Use to cut one body, then reverse to cut a second. Place the head shape on a grey print, remembering to reverse the template for the second side. Choose the placement of the pattern carefully so that they will match.

2 Pin each head to a corresponding body and stitch together with a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seam open. Lay each body right side up onto green petal print fabric which is wrong side up and cut out. Trim wadding the same size. Repeat for the other side. Place the wadding, then the lining right side up and finally position the front wrong side up and pin all three layers together.

3 Using a 1cm seam allowance, stitch all the way around leaving a gap at the bottom for turning. Trim excess and clip into the curves. Turn out and hand stitch the opening. Repeat for the other side. Machine or hand stitch some detail to the 'feathers' and stitch the word 'eggs'.

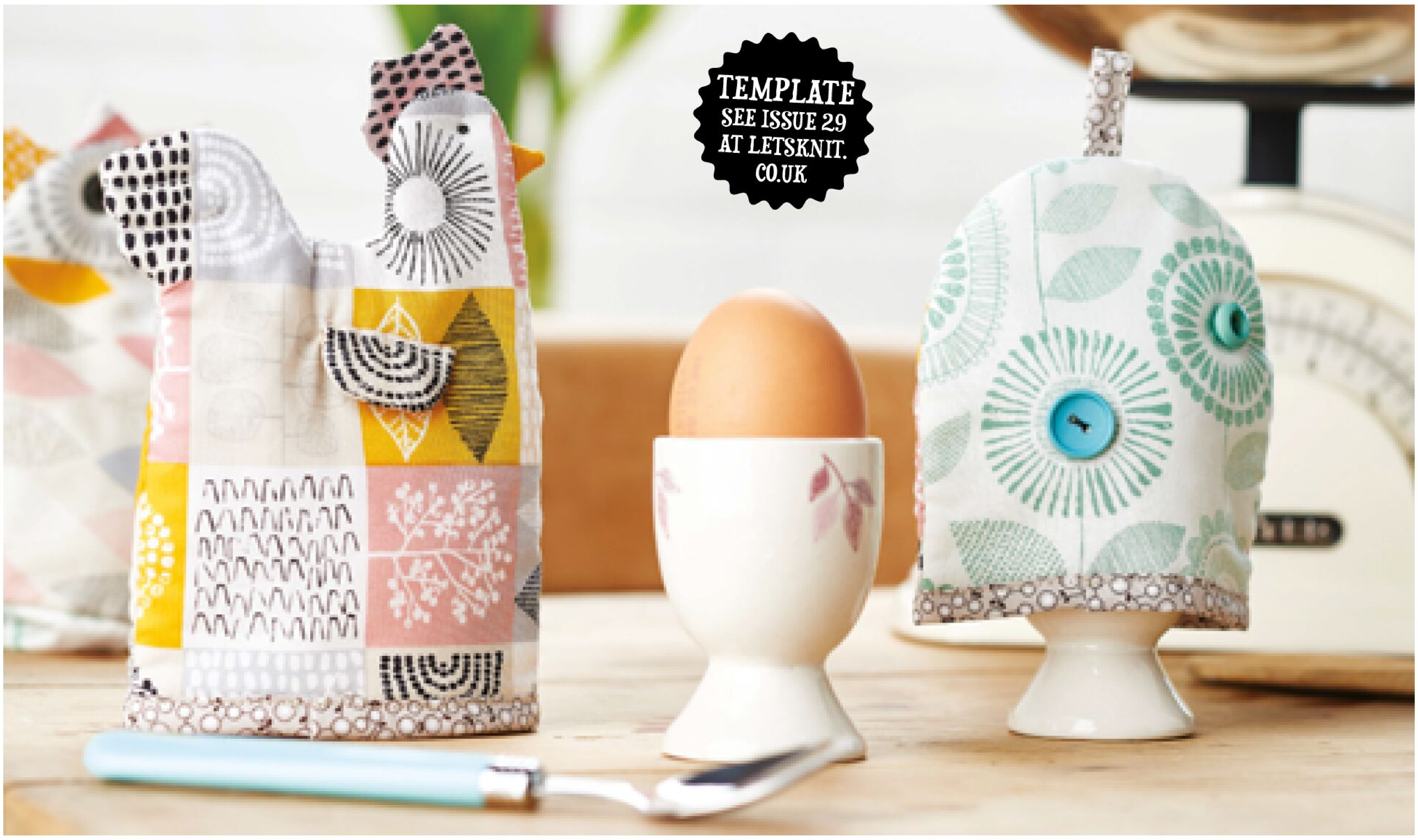
4 Cut out two combs, two wattles and two beaks, reversing the template for one of each, then trim one of each from wadding. Cut two bases from green petal fabric and another from wadding. For each section, pin the front and back right sides together with the wadding at the bottom, stitch with a 1cm seam, trim the excess fabric and turn out. Iron, then set aside.

5 Pin the two finished chicken sides with the lining fabric on the inside together, and ladder stitch from the tip of the tail down to the bottom. Then hand stitch around the head and down to the bottom, trapping the comb, beak and wattle in between the two sides as you sew them together. Pin the green fabric base in place, then hand stitch to secure. To finish, stitch two black button eyes.

HEN COSY

1 Use the egg cosy template to cut two outer pieces and two linings, plus two from wadding. Reverse the template for one of each. Stitch the two sides separately, laying out the wadding, then the lining right side up then the outer fabric wrong side up. Pin together, leaving a gap at the bottom for turning. Trim excess, clip the curves, turn and close the opening. Quilt two straight lines to add detail to the tail. Set the two pieces aside.

2 Make a beak by folding a yellow elipse shape in half, point to point and stitching a triangle. Use the comb template



TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.
CO.UK

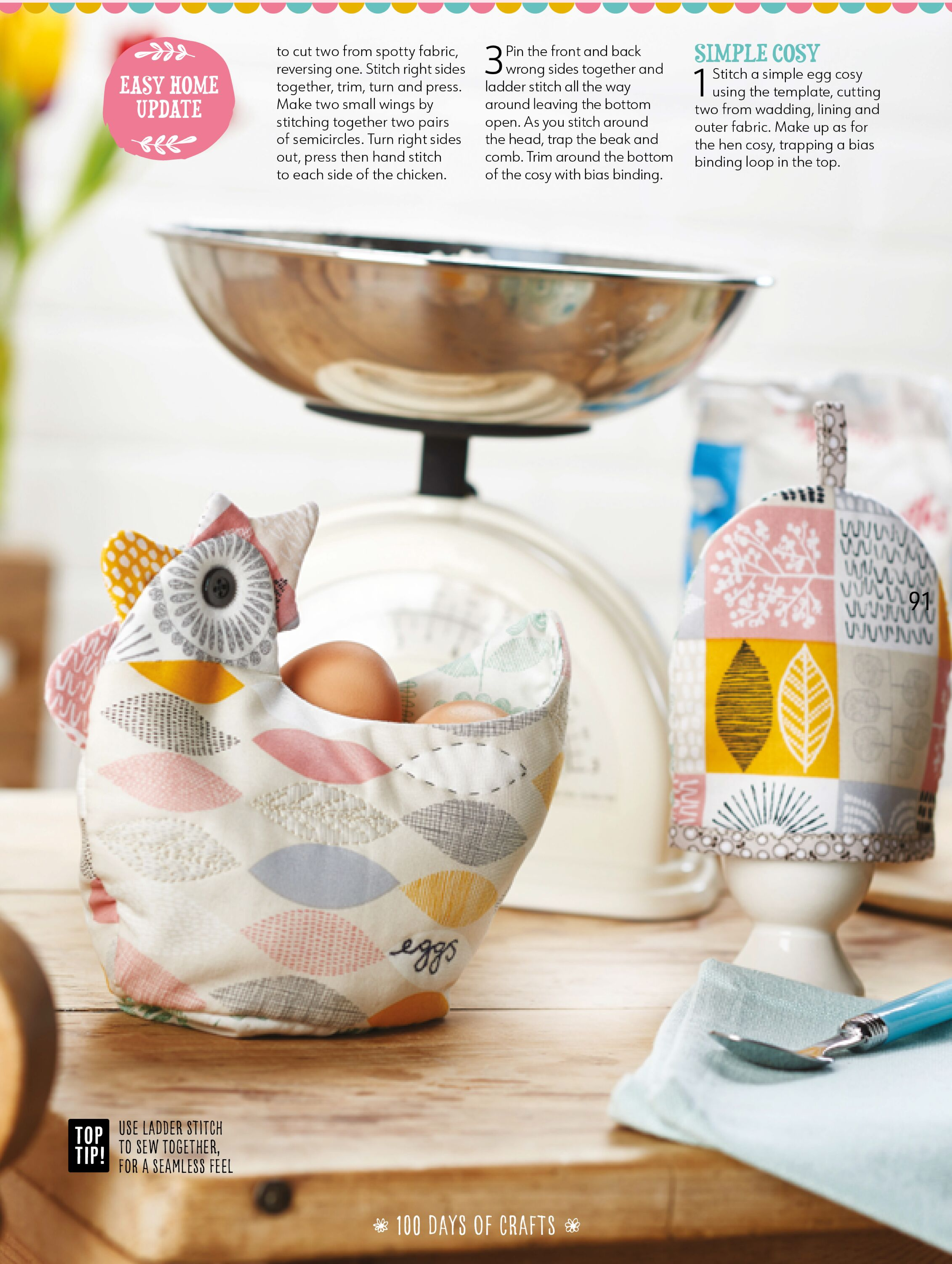
EASY HOME UPDATE

to cut two from spotty fabric, reversing one. Stitch right sides together, trim, turn and press. Make two small wings by stitching together two pairs of semicircles. Turn right sides out, press then hand stitch to each side of the chicken.

3 Pin the front and back wrong sides together and ladder stitch all the way around leaving the bottom open. As you stitch around the head, trap the beak and comb. Trim around the bottom of the cosy with bias binding.

SIMPLE COSY

1 Stitch a simple egg cosy using the template, cutting two from wadding, lining and outer fabric. Make up as for the hen cosy, trapping a bias binding loop in the top.



TOP TIP! USE LADDER STITCH TO SEW TOGETHER, FOR A SEAMLESS FEEL

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Pocket organiser

This storage solution is handy all around the house for spice jars, craft supplies, baby essentials and more

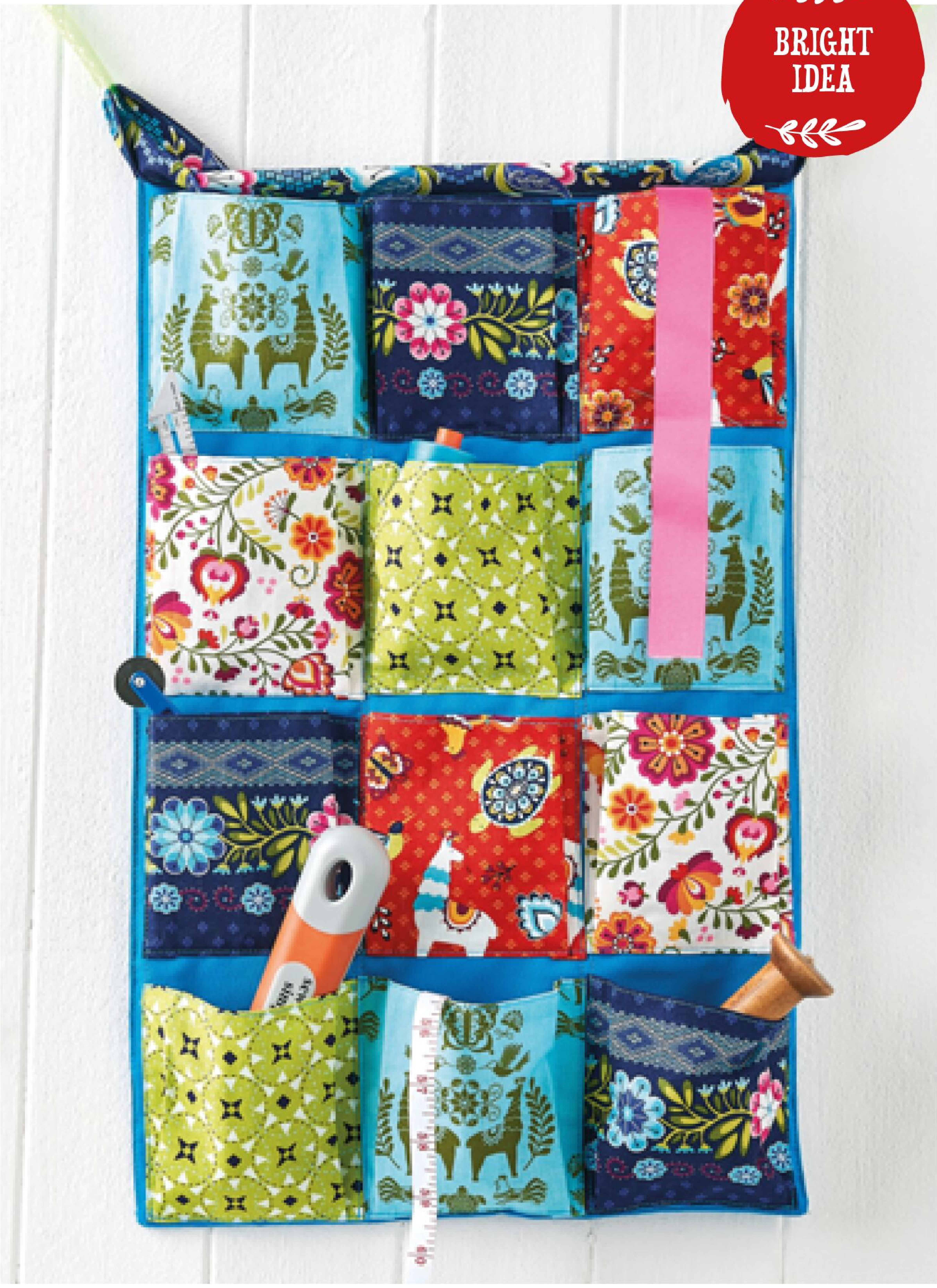
BRIGHT IDEA

KIT LIST

★ Cotton: assorted prints and plain blue ★ Blue cotton canvas ★ Medium weight fusible interfacing ★ 30cm wooden dowel

Size: 31cm x 49.5cm

NB: use 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated



1 Cut twelve 11cm x 14cm pieces of fusible interfacing, then twelve 13cm x 16cm rectangles from printed cotton. Iron the interfacing centrally to the wrong side of each fabric piece. Fold the excess fabric over the interfacing and press. Topstitch one long edge of each piece – this will be the top of the pocket.

2 Take each pocket piece and pin a small pleat 1.5cm in from both the left and right-hand sides to reduce the overall width to 10cm. Cut two 32cm x 50cm rectangles of blue cotton canvas. Lay one rectangle out flat and arrange the pockets on it in a 3 x 4 grid as pictured, leaving 2cm clearance at the edges.

3 Pin the pockets in place and topstitch the three folded edges to the canvas. Remove all the pins before placing the other plain rectangle on top and sewing around the sides and bottom edge. Turn the hanging right side out, press, then topstitch the seams.

4 Cut a 6cm x 55cm strip of fabric and fold it in half lengthways. Fold in 5mm on both long raw edges and press. Slip 1cm of the top of the hanging inside the centre of the folded strip and pin. Topstitch the length of the folded strip to make a tube on either side of the secured canvas. Trim a length of dowel to 30cm and slip it inside the tube to sit over the hanging. Loop the ends of the tube over to the back of the hanging, fold in the raw edges and slip stitch to the back.

DESIGNER **CHERYL OWEN**

Tub basket

Create calm in a chaotic craft room with a caddy that's perfect for corralling supplies!

KIT LIST

★ Fat quarters, various prints ★ 30cm square of standard sew-in interfacing

Size: 14cm x 11cm

NB: Use 6mm seam allowance. Sew seams with right sides facing

1 Cut two 23cm x 12.5cm rectangles of pink birds fabric, standard interfacing, green scallops and pink circles fabrics. Pin and tack the pink birds rectangles right side up on the interfacing for the tub. For the pockets, press the green scallops rectangles lengthwise in half with wrong sides facing. Pin and tack the pockets to the right side of the tubs, matching the raw lower long edges and short side edges.

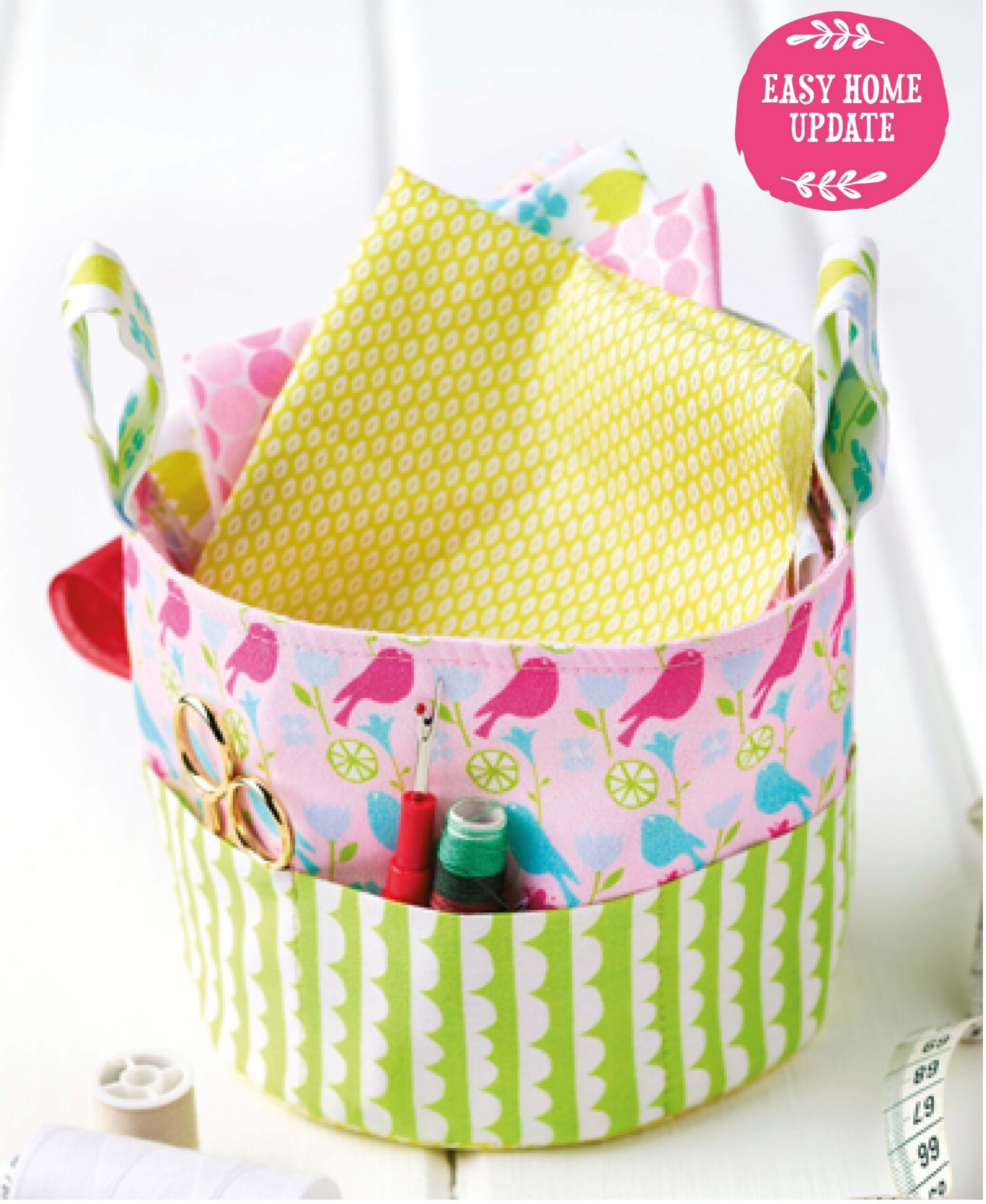
2 Divide the pockets into thirds, parallel with the side edges. Mark the divisions with a row of pins. Stitch the divisions. Stitch the tubs together along the short edges. Press the seams open.

3 Cut one 15cm diameter circle for the base from lime dotted fabric,standard interfacing and white floral fabric. Pin and tack the lime dotted base right side up on the interfacing. Divide the lower edge of the tub and interfaced base into quarters and mark each division with a pin. Pin and stitch the lower edge of the tub to the base, matching the divisions. Snip the curves and turn right side out.

4 Cut two 12.5 x 7.5cm rectangles from white floral fabric for the loops. Fold lengthwise in half and stitch the long edges. Turn right side out and press the loops. Fold the loops in half and pin the raw ends together. Pin the loops to the side seams of the tub with the raw edges level.

5 Pin the pink circles fabric rectangles together for the lining. Stitch the short edges, leaving a 10cm gap in one seam to turn through later. Press the seams open. Divide the lower edge of the lining and remaining base into quarters and mark each division with a pin. Pin and stitch the lower edge of the lining to the base, matching the divisions. Snip the curves.

6 Slip the tub into the lining, matching the seams. Stitch the upper edge. Turn the tub right side out through the gap in the lining. Slip stitch the gap closed. Push the lining into the tub and press the upper edge. Topstitch 6mm below the upper edge.



EASY HOME UPDATE

DESIGNER **RUTH OLIVER**

Violet rag doll

This lovely doll is the perfect excuse to declutter your fabric stash

KIT LIST

★ Natural linen ★ Tana lawn, fat quarters ★ Felt, pink, brown, purple, green ★ Yarn, purple ★ Toy filling ★ Embroidery thread, black ★ Small buttons, two

Doll: 10cm x 34cm (excl. arms); Collar dress: 13cm x 17cm (excl. sleeves); Pinafore dress: 15cm x 18cm

RAG DOLL

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut out two bodies, four arms (two left and two right) and four legs from plain linen, then the hair back and hair front from purple felt.

2 Take the two body pieces, lay the front hair on one and the back hair on the other, then pin in place. Topstitch around the fringe on the front piece, then for the base of the hair on the back. Using embroidery thread, stitch two closed eyes and a smile.

3 Sew two arm pieces together from under the arm, going around the hand and up to the shoulder. Stuff with some toy filling, poking it down to the hand and thumb. Repeat for the other arm. Stitch two leg pieces together, leaving the top open, and stuff until full. Repeat for the other leg.

4 Place one body piece right side up and lay the arms and legs at the indicated marks, positioning them into the centre of the body. Line up the edges and tack. Pin the other body piece on top of the first, right sides together. Sew all around the body and head, leaving a 4cm-5cm gap at the side.

5 Turn the doll out through the gap, stuff the body firmly and hand sew the gap closed. Fold 30cm lengths of yarn (10-15 strands) in half and tie at the fold. Plait from the fold, tie around the end and add a bow. Repeat for the second plait. Sew each in place at the bottom either side of the head.

6 Cut the shoe back and shoe front from brown felt and hand sew together. Slip onto the foot and add a little rectangle of brown felt across the top.

COLLAR DRESS

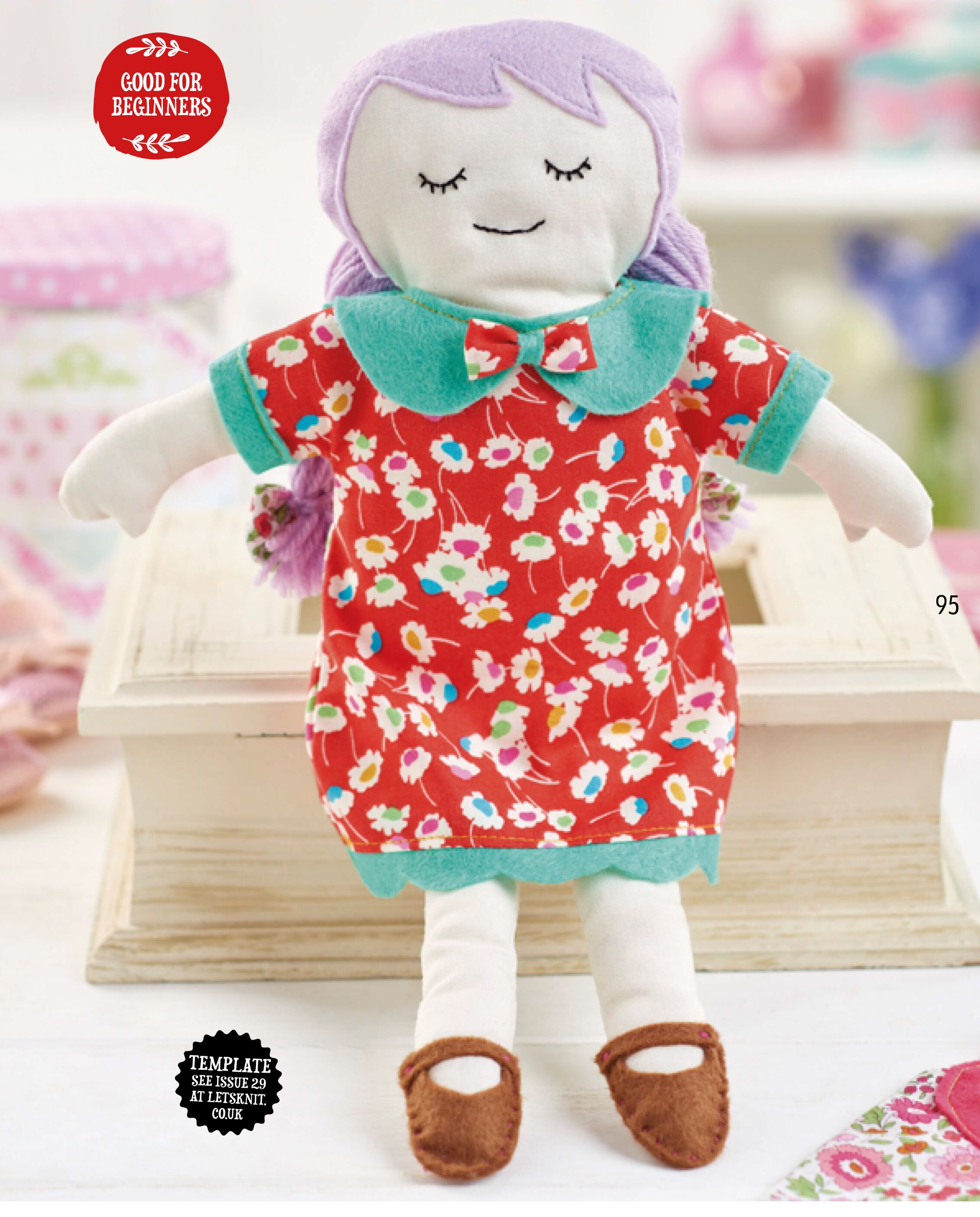
1 Use the collar dress template to cut two cotton pieces. Snip a 6cm slit down the centre back of one. Turn the slit edges in and topstitch. Cut the felt pieces and topstitch the cuffs onto the front arm, collar onto the neck and scalloped edge hem at the bottom. Repeat for the back.

2 Place the dress right sides together and sew the edges. Turn out. To make a bow, cut 3cm x 6cm of fabric and fold the long edges to the centre. Fold the short edges to the centre, pinch in the middle and sew. Wrap a small length of felt around and sew. Add the ribbon to the centre of the collar.

PINAFORE

1 Use the pinafore dress template to cut two pieces from fabric. Fold under the top and bottoms and sew a seam. Cut a heart from felt and topstitch to the front. Use the small heart template to cut two smaller hearts from felt for pockets and sew opposite each other, 2.5cm from the bottom.

2 Place the front and back dresses right sides together, stitch along each side, then turn right side out. Cut two straps and sew to the back. Cross them over, bring to the front and stitch to the top of the heart. Sew a button on each at the front.


GOOD FOR BEGINNERS
TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT. CO.UK

DESIGNER **LUCINDA GANDERTON**

Gardener's essentials

Make gardening easy with this tool caddy and knee rest combo

PRACTICAL AND PRETTY

KIT LIST

★ Cotton fabric: polka dot, floral, pink ★ Bias binding, 2.5cm x 1m ★ Cardboard, 8cm x 23cm ★ Fibre filling, polyester ★ Iron and ironing board ★ Sewing machine and thread ★ Scissors ★ Pins ★ Tape measure ★ Needle and thread ★ Fabric pencil

Tool caddy: 23cm square
Knee rest: 25cm x 36cm

CUTTING GUIDE

Knee rest: ★ Two 6cm x 25cm in polka dot (sides) ★ One 8cm x 26cm in polka dot (handle) ★ One 36cm square in floral (top) ★ One 25cm x 36cm in pink (base)

Tool caddy: ★ Two 25cm squares in polka dot (front and back) ★ Two 10cm x 25cm in polka dot (sides) ★ Two 6cm x 45cm in polka dot (handles) ★ Two 15cm x 38cm in floral (main pockets) ★ Two 14cm x 15cm in floral (side pockets) ★ One 10cm x 25cm in floral (base) ★ Two 25cm squares in pink (lining) ★ Three 10cm x 25cm in pink (lining sides and base)

TOP TIP! FOR EXTRA STRENGTH, SEW A CROSS THROUGH THE RECTANGLE-SHAPED STITCHING (CALLED A BOX X STITCH) WHERE THE HANDLE JOINS THE BAG

KNEE REST

1 Lay the top fabric so that the pattern runs from top to bottom. Make four 8mm notches into the seam allowance of the left and right side edges, 6cm in from each corner. With RS facing, pin the short end of a spotty side strip to the top of the left edge. Starting 1cm from the corner, sew together with a 1cm seam allowance as far as the snip.

2 Adjust the side strip so it lies along the edge of the fabric. Pin the two together, and stitch as far as the next notch. Repeat this process to make a box shape, leaving the last 1cm open. Join the other side in the same way.

3 To make the handle, press under a 1cm turning along each long edge of the strip, then fold it in half lengthways and press again. Machine stitch 3mm from each edge. Pin and tack the short ends to one side strip, 6cm in from each corner.

4 Press a 1cm turning along one short edge of the pink base and along the side strip without the handle. With RS facing, pin one long edge of the base to the top. Machine stitch, leaving 1cm unstitched at each end. Pin and stitch the other two edges in place.

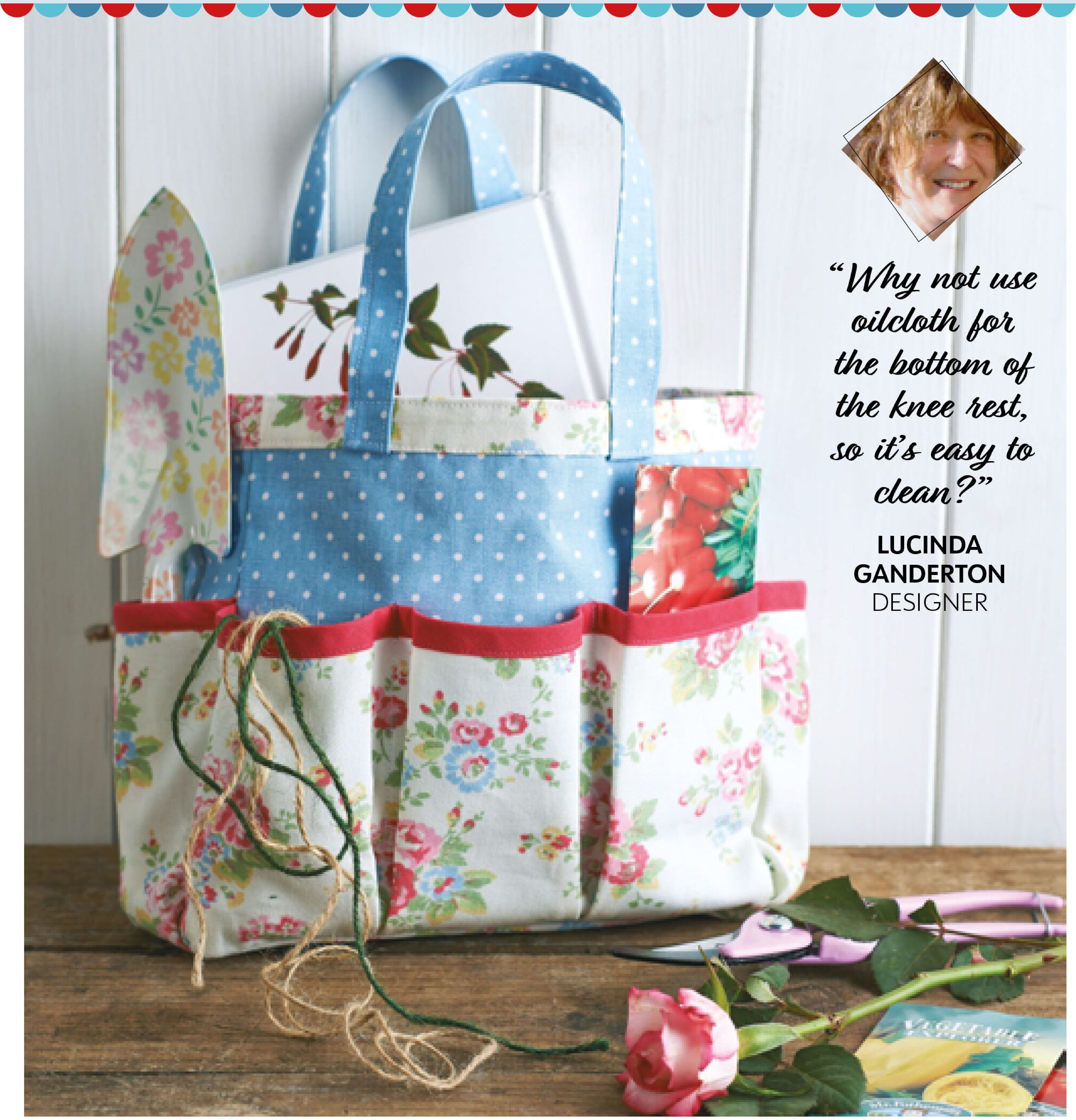
5 Turn RS out through the gap and press lightly. Fill with stuffing, then slip stitch the pressed edges together.

TOOL CADDY

1 Neaten the top edge of all floral pockets with bias binding. To mark the positions of the box pleats, insert two pins on the top and bottom edges of the main pockets, 13cm in from the corners. Fold vertically between these points and press creases lightly. At the bottom edge, fold a 1cm pleat at each side of the creases and pin in place. Make a 1cm pleat, 2cm in from each corner and pin.

2 Check that the bottom edge of the pocket fits neatly along the polka dot front panel and adjust the pleats as necessary. Pin and tack the side and bottom edges of the pocket to the panel and machine stitch together using a 6mm seam allowance. Divide the three pockets by stitching along the crease lines. Reinforce the top of each seam with satin stitch in a colour to match the bias binding. Make up the back of the bag in the same way.

3 Create a 1cm pleat, 2cm in from each bottom corner of the side pockets and pin



“Why not use oilcloth for the bottom of the knee rest, so it’s easy to clean?”

LUCINDA GANDERTON
DESIGNER

in place. Pin and tack the side and bottom edges of the pockets to the side panels and machine stitch together. With RS facing, taking care not to stitch into the fold, pin, tack and machine stitch the side panels to the left and right edges of the front, then sew on the back. Leave the 1cm seam allowance at the bottom end of each seam unstitched. Sew on the base and turn right side out. Slip a cardboard base into the bottom of the bag.

4 Make up the lining in the same way and place inside the bag, matching the seam lines. Tack the lining and bag together around the opening. Turn under a 1cm seam along each long edge of the handles and press in half with WS facing. Stitch the folded edges together 3mm from the edge, then stitch the other fold to match. Pin the short ends to the top of the back and front with raw edges matching, 5cm in from the corners.

5 Make your own bias binding using leftover fabric. Press under a 1cm turning along one long edge and one short edge for the opening. Matching the neatened short edge to one seam, pin the long raw edge of the binding around the outside of the bag with RS facing, overlapping the end. Machine stitch in place, 2mm from the edge. To finish, work a few extra stitches over the ends of the handles to reinforce the join.

6 Fold the neatened edge of the binding to the inside of the bag and slip stitch it down. Machine stitch 3mm from the seam on the RS, then stitch through the handles 3mm from the top of the bag.

WHY NOT TRY...

Have a go at stitching a matching pair of gardening gloves – just be sure to use thick fabric or line them well

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Dog bandana

Your beloved pooch will look pawsome in this reversible neckerchief

KIT LIST

- Patterned and plain fabric

Size: 18cm x 31cm (excl. ties)

WATCH CORINNE'S DEMO ONLINE AT
youtube.com/
Thecraftschannel.com

TREAT YOUR PET

1 Measure your dog's neck loosely and cut two different patterned squares of fabric that are 70% of this measurement (e.g. if the neck measurement is 40cm, the squares need to be 28cm). Cut each square in half diagonally, then pair up two contrasting triangles right sides together. Sew along the diagonal with a 5mm seam allowance.

2 Open out the fabric to make a square again and fold in 3cm of the dual-coloured corners. Fold the fabric again, right sides together, and sew between the two folded corners. Turn the fabric out through one of the corner gaps and press.

3 Cut two 5cm wide strips of fabric the same length as the side of the square. Fold each one in half, right sides together, then sew into tubes, tapering one end of each piece to close it. Trim the fabric, turn out the tubes and press to make ties.

4 Slip 2cm of the raw ends of the ties inside the folded in corner pieces of the bandana and pin. Topstitch around the triangle, 2mm from the edges, securing the ties as you do so.

TOP TIP! IF YOU PREFER TO USE A TEMPLATE OR ARE MAKING THESE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S PET AND ARE UNSURE OF THE PET'S SIZE, CHECK OUT THE TEMPLATES AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.
CO.UK

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Duvet bag

This huge holdall will come in handy for sleepovers, laundry and for storing bulky items like bedlinens or Christmas decs

KIT LIST

★ Cotton: berry print, three fat quarters, yellow, teal, one fat quarter each ★ Zip, 55cm ★ Crochet lace strip ★ Iron-on interfacing

1 Line two pieces of berry fabric, 10cm x 55cm, with interfacing. Place one piece face down along the zip edge and stitch down, 5mm from the teeth, using a zipper foot. Fold the fabric, right sides facing, and topstitch to hold flat. Repeat for the opposite side of the zip.

2 Cut two panels of teal fabric, 19cm x 55cm, and line with interfacing. Place one piece face down over the zip gusset and sew across the short edge. Fold out and topstitch, then repeat for the other piece on the opposite end of the zip – do not stitch through the zip's metal parts.

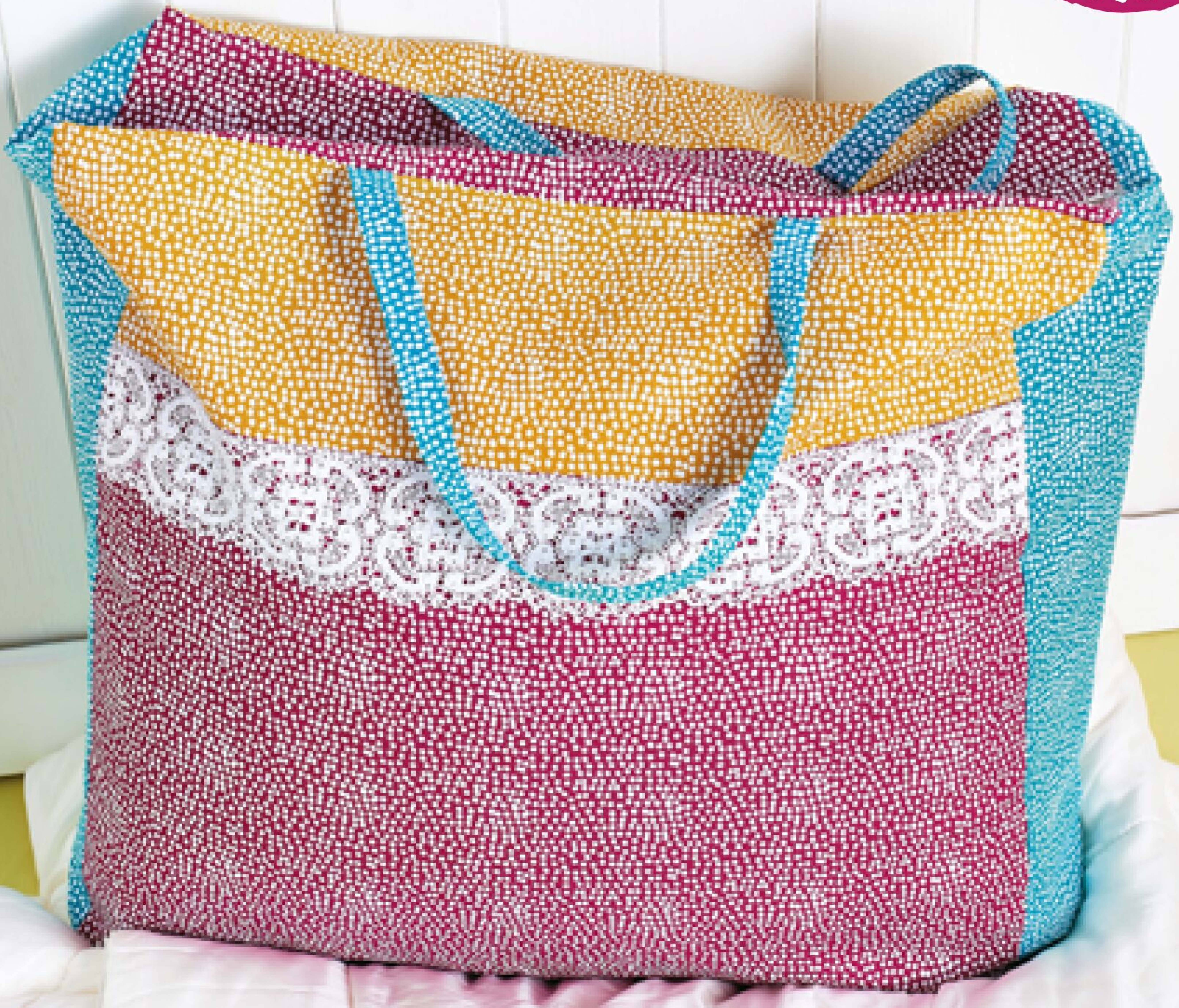
3 Take two sections of teal fabric, 6cm x 55cm, line with interfacing, then fold in half lengthways, right sides together. Sew down the long sides, 5mm from the edge, and turn the resulting tubes right sides out. Press, topstitch to keep flat, then tack the end of the tubes to the outer sides of the zip gusset to create handles.

4 Cut yellow fabric, 16cm x 55cm, and berry fabric, 41cm x 55cm. Attach the two right sides together with a 5mm seam allowance to make a 46cm x 55cm panel, then press flat before lining with interfacing. Lay a length of wide crochet lace along the seam and topstitch in place. Make the back panel in the same way.

5 Pin the front and back panels to the long edges of the zip gusset, right sides together, sandwiching the ends of the handles between the two pieces of fabric. Sew together and fold right sides out. Topstitch to strengthen join.

6 Pin the sides of the bag to the front and back panels, right sides together, and stitch. Undo the zip slightly. Cut berry fabric, 19cm x 55cm, line with interfacing and sew the long edges to the base of the front and back panels. Stitch the short edges to the base of the sides, and turn the finished bag out through zip opening.

SMART FOR STUDENTS



DESIGNER **ELLEN KHARADE**

Pattern weights

These tortoises would make a cute gift set – make them as a pair of pattern weights or individually as a pincushion

KIT LIST

★ Hand-dyed batik cotton, selection colours ★ Cream cotton, 22cm x 30cm ★ Toy filling ★ Embroidery thread, green, yellow, lilac, pink, black ★ Flower buttons, green, pink ★ PVA glue ★ Split yellow lentils ★ Pink felt, scrap

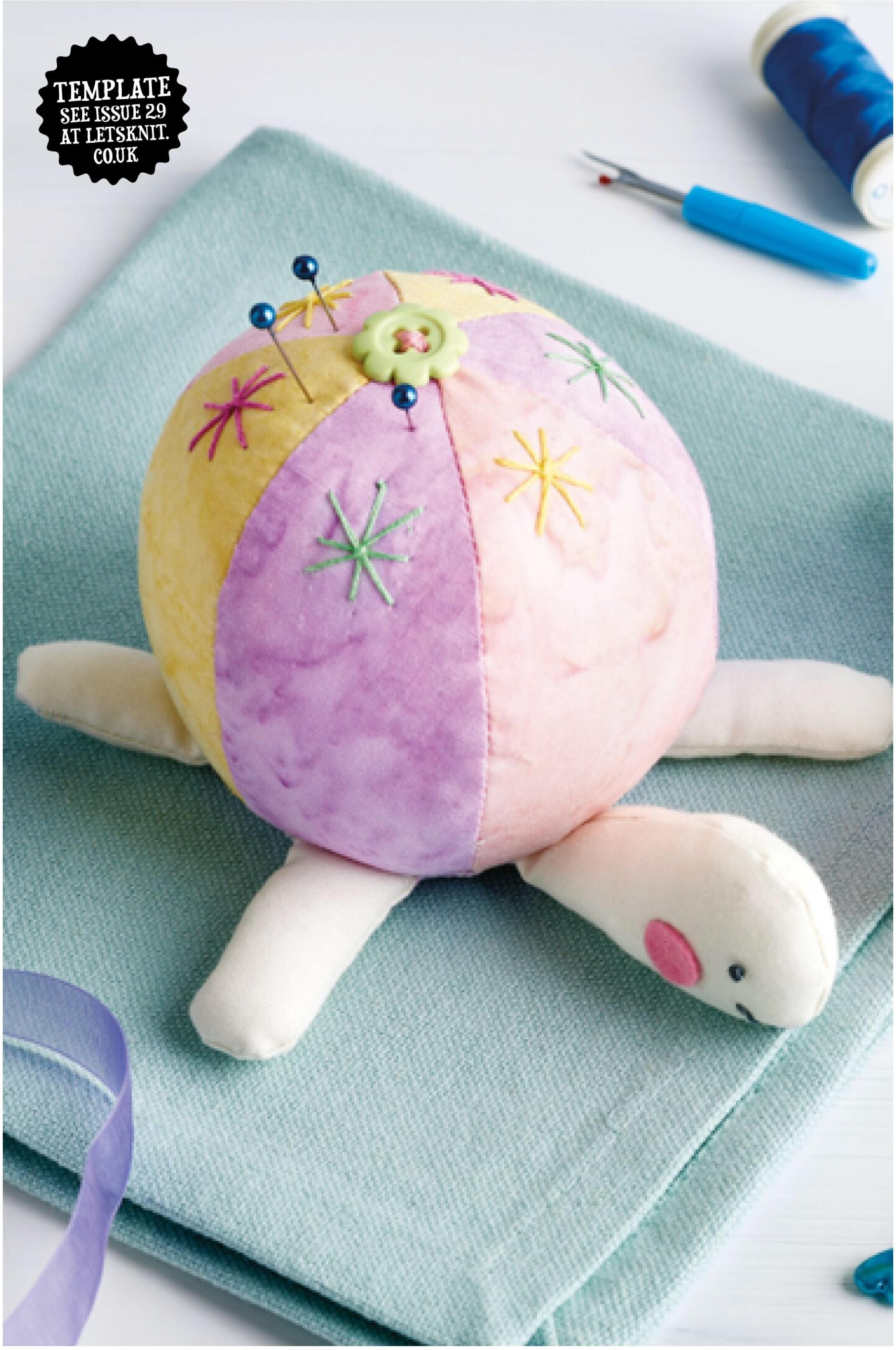
Size: 10cm x 15cm

1 Go to letsknit.co.uk and download the templates. Print and cut out. Pin the lozenge shape template to cotton fabric and cut out six sections, varying the shades. Pin the remaining templates to cream and trim two heads, eight legs and two tail sections. Pin the belly template to coloured fabric and cut one.

2 Place one lozenge with a different colour each side. With right sides facing, pin and machine stitch two together, then repeat adding the remaining shape to the other side. Stitch three more pieces together in the same way.

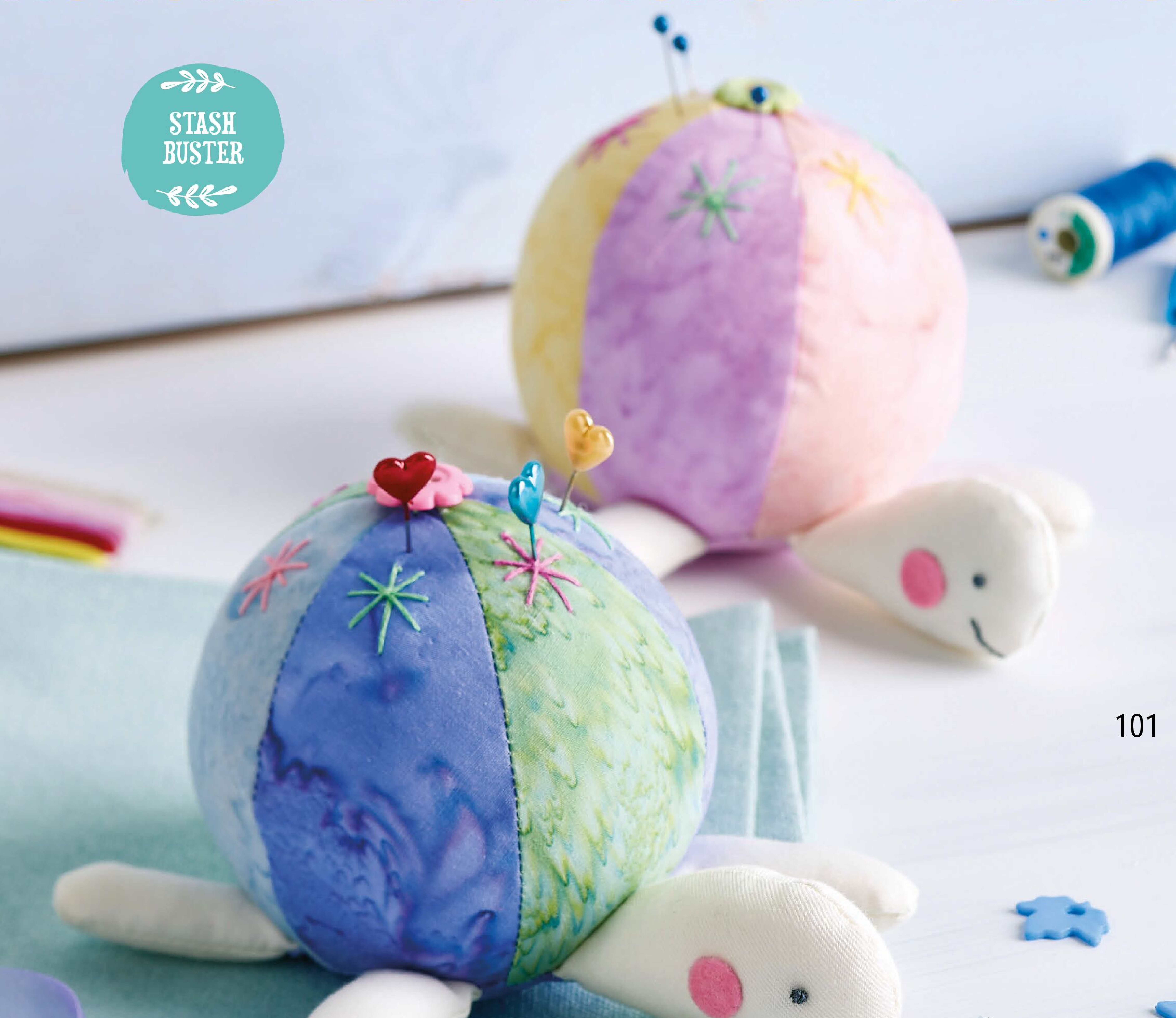
3 With right sides facing, pin the two sections together, making sure that all the points meet, and machine stitch leaving a 3cm gap at the base for turning. Finger press all of the seams open and turn out. Stuff the ball with filling and a handful of split lentils to add weight, then sew up the gap using small stitches.

4 With right sides facing, pin two leg sections together and machine stitch, trim the seam slightly, turn out and stuff with toy filling. Sew the remaining legs, head and tail together and stuff in the same



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

STASH BUSTER



way. Turn the tortoise over and pin the head, tail and legs to the underside. Hand sew firmly into place using back stitches.

5 Press the edges of the belly section to the wrong side by 5mm. Pin to the underside of the tortoise, covering the raw edges of the limbs, head and tail and sew into place using neat whip stitches. Sew a flower button to the top of the shell using embroidery thread. Embroider star stitches into the segments in a contrasting colour.

6 Add features using French knots for the eyes and a back stitch for the mouth. Cut out two small circles from pink felt and stick each rosy cheek to the side of the face with PVA.

> *"Reduce the size to create a set of mini pattern weights"*

ELLEN KHARADE
DESIGNER

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Bowling bag

This fully lined holdall will certainly turn heads with its bold pattern and shape

KIT LIST

★ Fat quarters, three prints ★ Interfacing: lightweight fusible, heavyweight ★ Zip, 44cm ★ Leather bag handles

Size: 27cm x 37cm excl. handles

1 Print template, trace onto card and cut out. Select three different prints for the outer bag, contrasting sections and lining. Cut two 7cm x 48cm pieces of contrasting and lining fabrics to make the gusset for the zip. Fuse lightweight interfacing to the lining pieces and trim to size, laying one of them horizontally, right side up on a work surface. Place the zip face up on top, lining up the bottom edges. Lay one contrasting section face down, to sandwich the fastening. Ensure there is 2cm of spare fabric at either end.

2 Use a zipper foot on your sewing machine to stitch the three pieces together, close to the teeth of the fastening. Unfold the layers so the fabrics lay wrong sides together and the zip sits along the top, press and topstitch 3mm from the zip. Repeat this process on the other side of the fastening and zig-zag stitch the long outer edges on each side of the panel to hold it flat. Trim the short ends of the finished band to 1cm from the zip end.

3 Cut 13cm x 18cm of contrasting print for a small side pocket. Interface half of the wrong side, fold the fabric over it and press. Zig-zag stitch around the three raw edges. Cut 12cm x 13cm pieces from the outer print and lining fabric to make the short side panel. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the inner print. Sandwich the closed end of the zip panel between the two pieces, ensuring the prints are right sides together. Stitch across the end of the gusset.

4 Open out the fabrics so they lie wrong sides together and topstitch 3mm from the seam. Line up the raw edges of the folded pocket and the side panel and zig-zag stitch to hold in place. Make a larger pouch from 13cm x 30cm of contrasting print, and a lined side panel of 13cm x 33cm for the other side of the bag in the same way.

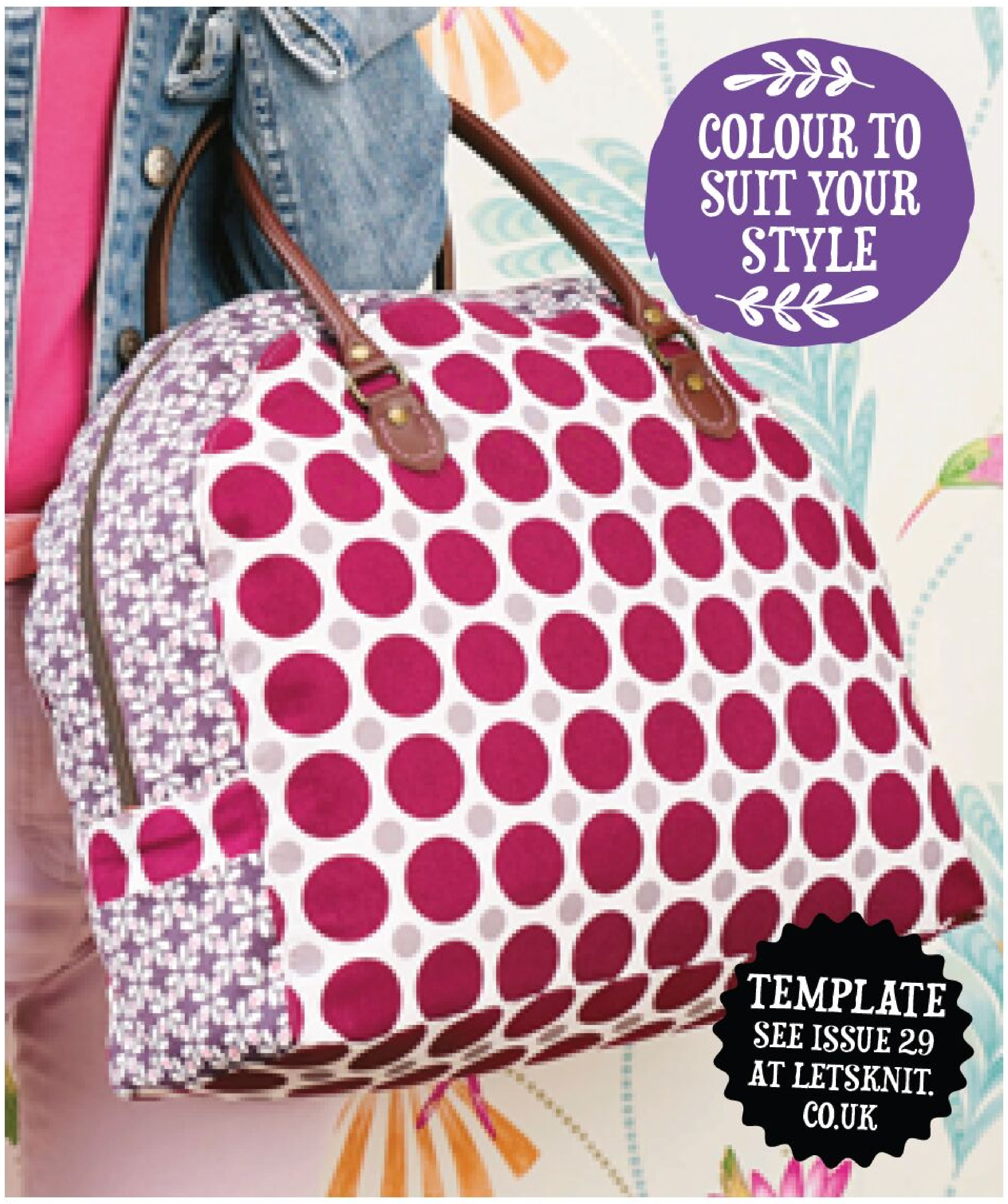
5 Cut two 26cm x 31cm pieces of the contrasting print to make the internal pockets. Fold in half widthways right sides together. Sew around the three raw edges leaving a 10cm gap in the middle of one side for turning. Turn out and press, folding the raw edges of the gap inside.

6 Using the template, cut two bag pieces from both the lining and outer fabrics. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of each inner piece and trim to size. Position a pocket on the right side of each one and topstitch 3mm from the edge around the sides and base to hold in place. Find the centre of the zip panel and mark with a pin. Do the same on all four bag pieces.

7 Lay the bag lining right side up and completed gusset outer side up on a work surface with the outer bag face down on top, match the centre marks and pin in place. Pin the edge of the zip panel between the two bag pieces, working out from the middle and easing the fabric on the curve. Sew in place. Turn the fabrics right sides out, topstitch 3mm from the seam and zig-zag the bottom edge to hold. Attach the other half of the bag to the zip panel in the same way. Turn the bag inside out.

8 Cut 14cm x 40cm of the outer fabric for the bag's base. Pin and stitch to the bag, right sides together, making small tucks at the corners if necessary for a perfect fit. Cut 13cm x 38cm of heavyweight interfacing and iron to the centre of the wrong side of a piece of lining print measuring 17cm x 42cm. Fold the edges of the fabric over the interfacing and tack down.

9 Place the stiff lining piece over the bottom of the bag, wrong sides together. Pin in place, tucking the raw edges beneath. Slip stitch in place and turn the bag out. Pin then backstitch the handles to each side of the bag, ensuring they are level and the same distance from the centre, using strong, thick thread, passing through all the layers of the bag.


COLOUR TO SUIT YOUR STYLE
TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Teatowel hangers

These are perfect for hanging securely over bar handles or oven rails in the kitchen

KIT LIST

- Cotton: assorted prints
- White cotton towelling
- Hook and loop tape

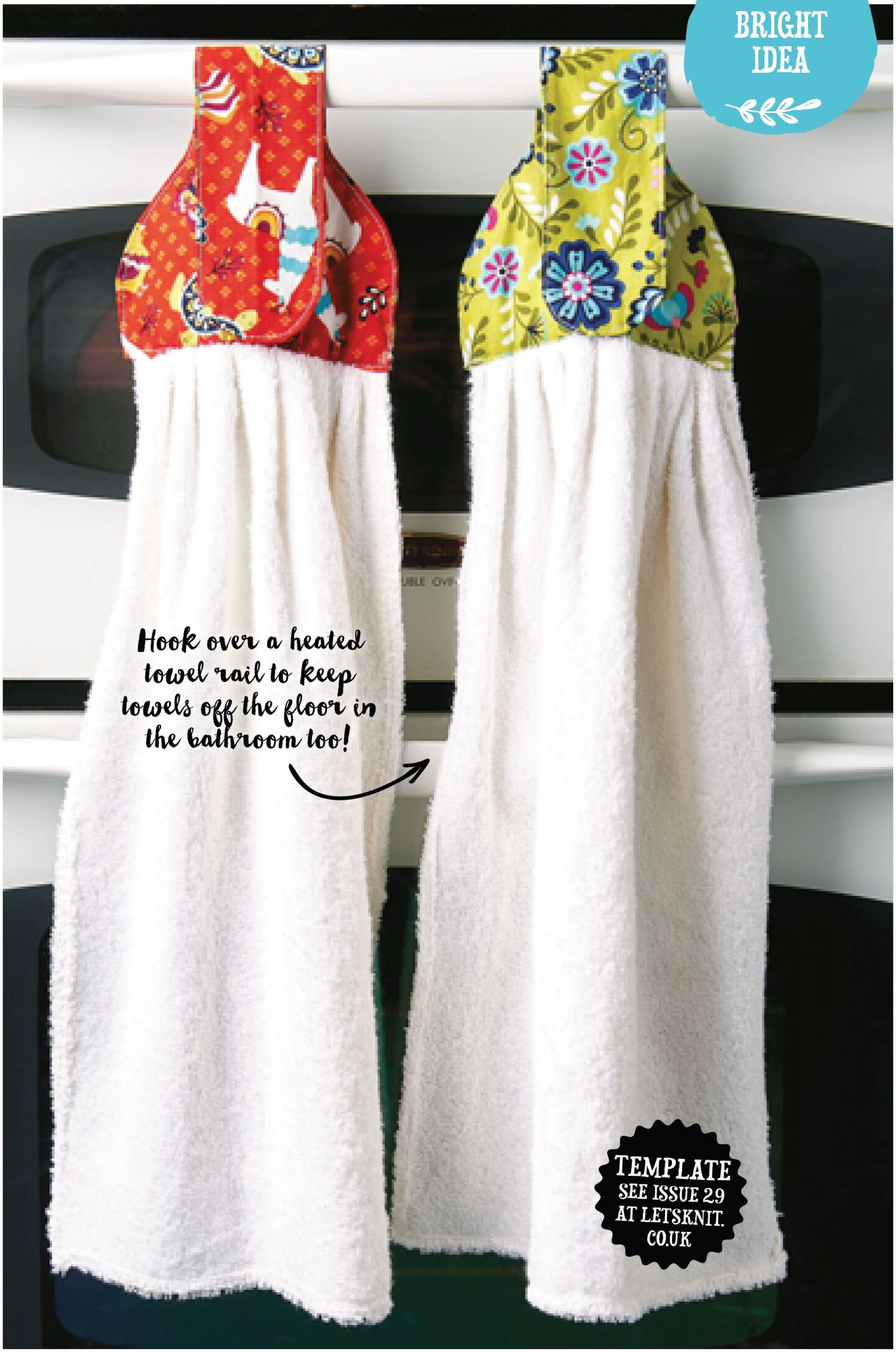
Size: 33cm x 53cm

1 Cut a 38cm x 45cm rectangle of white towelling. Turn in and oversew both long edges and one short side to prevent fraying. Pleat and pin the remaining short edge to bring it down to 14cm wide.

2 Use the template to cut two hanger shapes from printed cotton fabrics, adding a 5mm seam allowance around, then pin them right sides together. Sew around the edges, leaving the bottom flat side open. Clip the curves, turn right sides out and press. Topstitch around the seam, 2mm from the edges.

3 Fold in the raw edges of the flat bottom and slide the pleated end of the towel inside by 1cm. Re-pin to hold the folded edges parallel on either side of the pleats and topstitch. Cut a small square of hook and loop tape and slip stitch one half to the top of the hanger and the other half to the bottom centre so the towel can be looped through a drawer handle.

TOP TIP! TO PLEAT YOUR TOWEL, FOLD IT IN HALF LENGTHWISE, THEN TAKE THE EDGE OF THE TOP LAYER AT ONE END AND FOLD IT BACK ON ITSELF BY 3CM. PIN IN PLACE, THEN PLEAT THE WHOLE TOP LAYER IN THE SAME WAY. CONTINUE TO PLEAT THE REST OF THE TOP EDGE LIKE THIS, UNTIL IT IS YOUR DESIRED LENGTH – UNPIN AND ADJUST UNTIL HAPPY



BRIGHT IDEA

Hook over a heated towel rail to keep towels off the floor in the bathroom too!

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

DESIGNER **JANE KHARADE**

Owl cushion

Whip up this cute cushion – once you've got the basic shapes have a hoot embellishing it with buttons and beads

KIT LIST

★ Fabric: cotton, purple, 11cm x 33cm; pink, heavy-weight, two fat quarters; lining, two fat quarters; three prints, small amounts (enough for beak and eye, chest and forehead areas) ★ Webbing, fusible ★ Felt, blue ★ Split ring ★ Ribbon ★ Pencil ★ Seed beads ★ Sequins ★ Stuffing ★ Buttons ★ Adhesive ★ Fade out pen

KEYRING

1 Follow the small owl template to draw a motif onto a piece of blue felt, using a fade out pen. Iron fusible webbing onto patterned fabric, then cut a head, wings and beak from it. Peel the backing paper and iron them into position on the felt.

2 Sew two small mother of pearl buttons and black seed beads for the eyes. Fold the felt in two. Cut around the head (marked on the pattern) leaving a seam the same size as the width of the ribbon and insert a folded length of ribbon at the head. Pin the ribbon and the felt into place.

3 Starting at the base of the right wing and using buttonhole stitch, sew around the owl. Stop at the base of the left wing, lift the foot up without removing the owl from the machine, and use a pencil to fill the owl with toy stuffing.

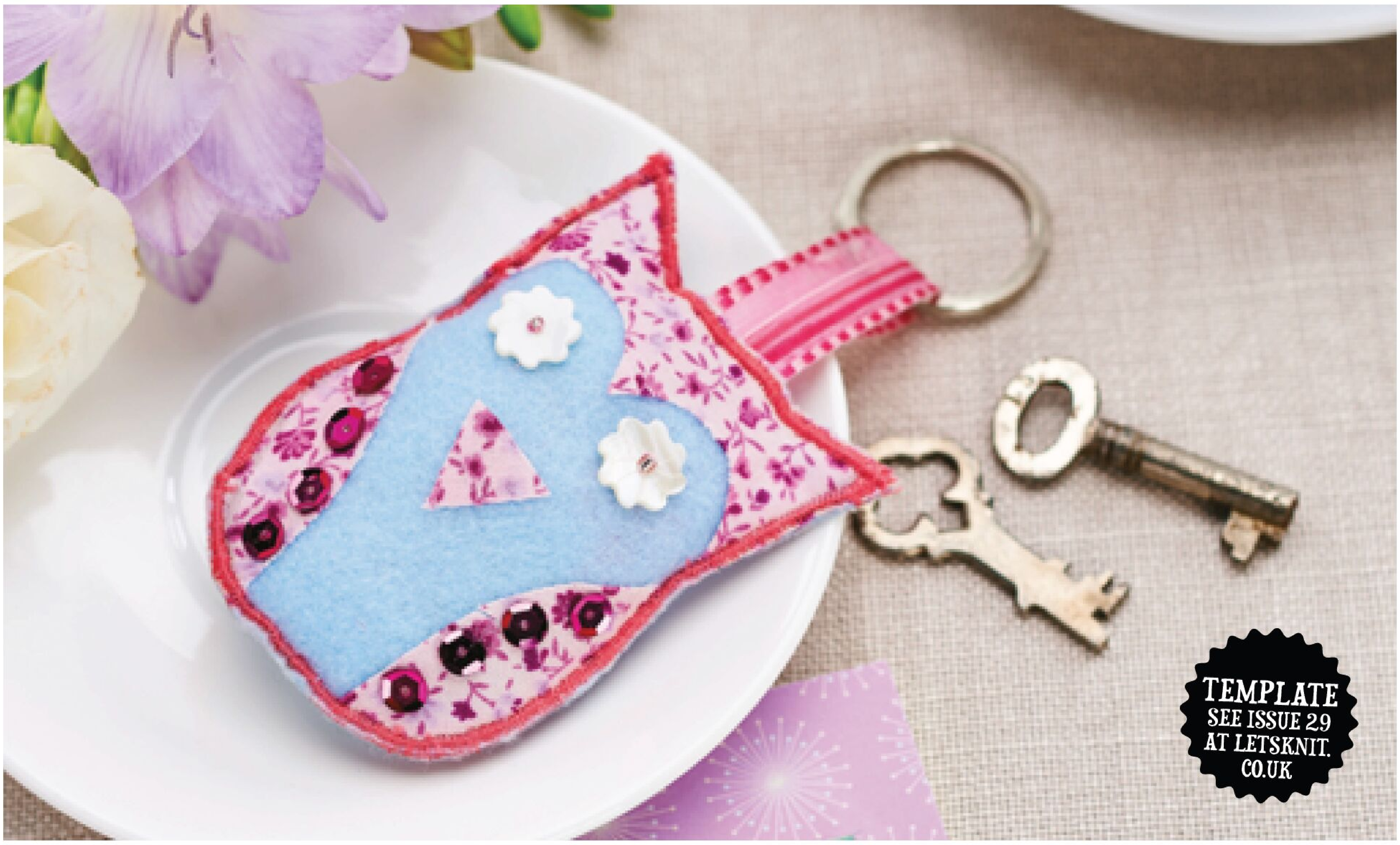
4 When full, lower the foot and sew up the gap. Cut the owl from the felt, and complete the look by slipping a split ring onto the ribbon and gluing sequins onto the wings.

CUSHION

1 Use the large owl from the templates at letsknit.co.uk to cut a front and two back pieces from pink cotton fabric. Fold with a 1cm hem twice, then pin and machine stitch. Iron fusible webbing onto three prints of cotton and an 11cm x 33cm piece of purple fabric. Cut out the corresponding shapes from the pattern and iron them into position on the owl.

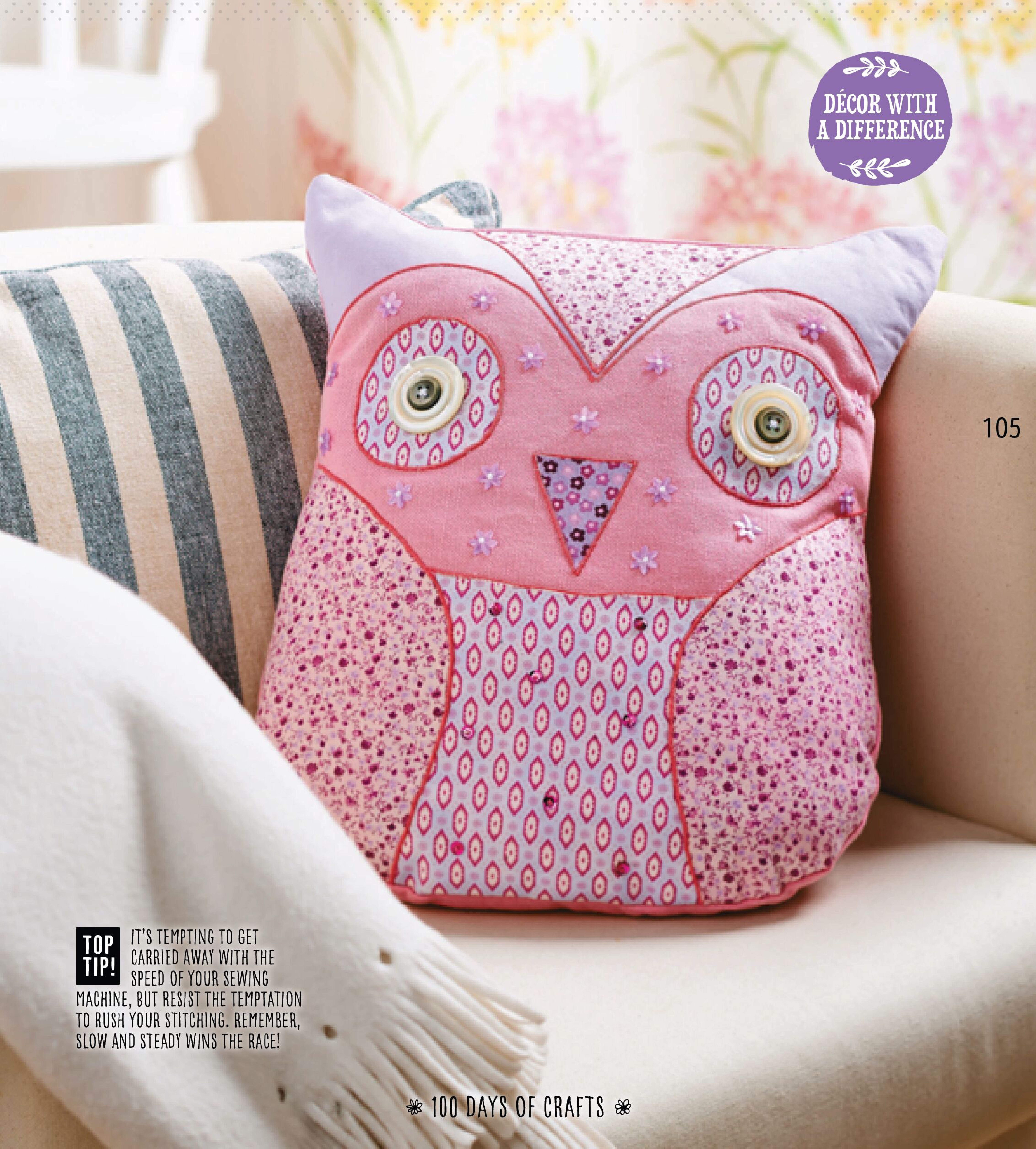
2 Using a contrasting pink thread, neatly buttonhole stitch around the appliqué shapes. Sew buttons onto the front for the eyes. Decorate with sequins, sewing each one with a seed bead. Press the pieces of the cushion, then pin and tack together with right sides facing. Machine stitch around the edge leaving a small gap and turn out.

3 Cut out two pieces of lining fabric using the same template. Pin and stitch them together with right sides facing, leaving a small gap. Turn it out and stuff, then stitch up the gap. Place inside the cushion cover and sew the gap in the cover closed.



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

> *"If you're new to stitching, practise using the buttonhole stitch on a scrap piece of fabric before stitching the applique"*
>
> **JANE KHARADE** DESIGNER



TOP TIP! IT'S TEMPTING TO GET CARRIED AWAY WITH THE SPEED OF YOUR SEWING MACHINE, BUT RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RUSH YOUR STITCHING. REMEMBER, SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE!

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Cosmetic bags

Choose from three useful bag sizes for all your essentials and you'll soon be a whizz at inserting zips

KIT LIST

★ Plain and patterned cotton ★ Zips: two 20cm, one 35cm ★ Lightweight wadding ★ Lightweight fusible interfacing

CUTTING GUIDE

Cosmetic bag: ★ Two 25cm x 37cm pieces each from patterned and plain cotton, and wadding (front and back) ★ Two 8cm x 20cm pieces each from patterned and plain cotton, and wadding (sides) ★ Two 6cm x 8cm pieces from plain cotton (zip ends)

Spotty : ★ Two 20cm x 26cm pieces from outer fabric, fusible interfacing and lining (main) ★ Two 3cm x 8cm pieces from contrasting fabric (tab)

Striped case: ★ One 21cm x 31cm panel from outer fabric, fusible interfacing and lining (main) ★ One 3cm x 21cm piece from two patterned cottons (strip) ★ Two 2cm x 4cm strips from outer fabric (zip ends)

NB: use 5mm seam allowance

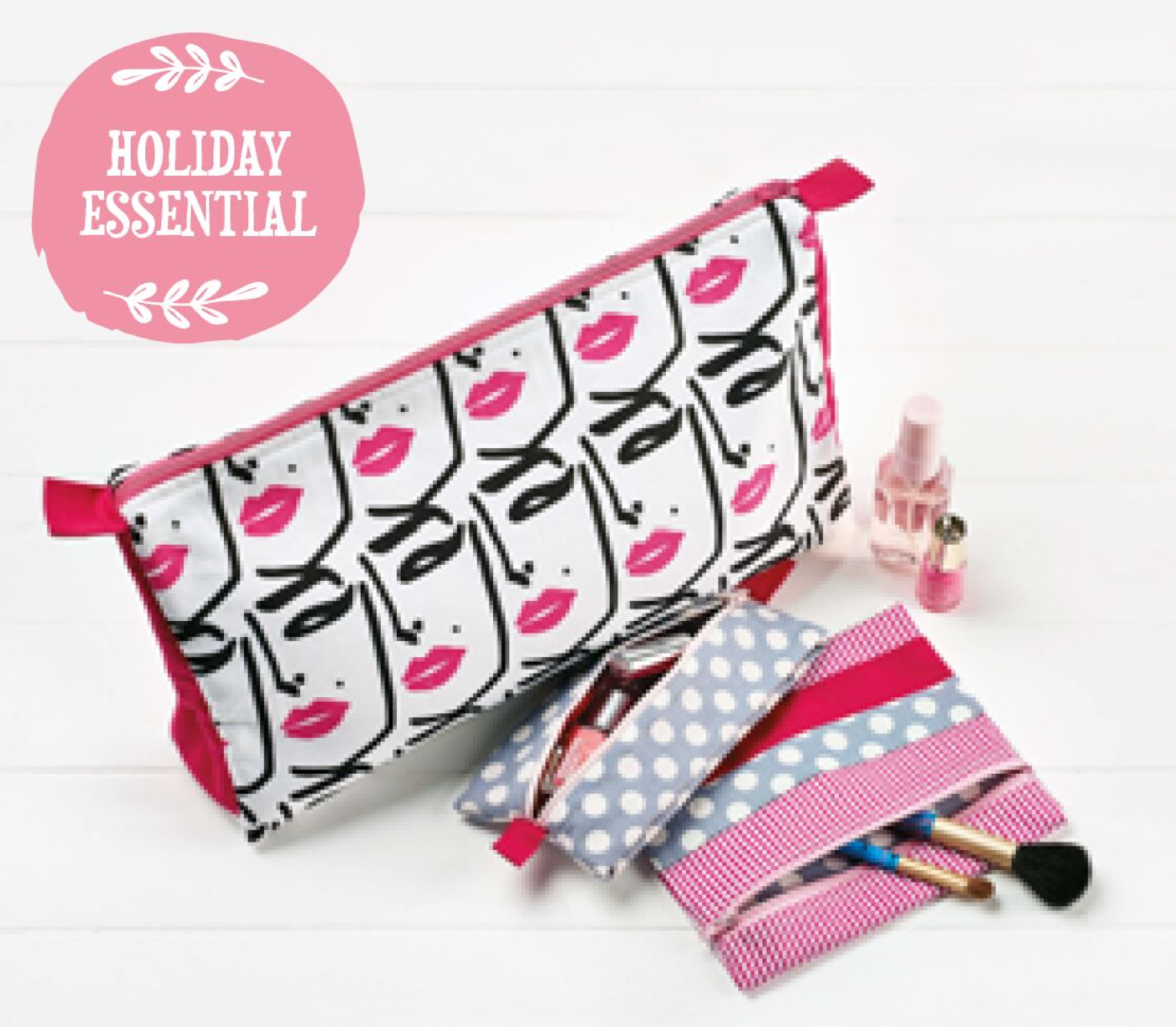
COSMETIC BAG

1 Place the front piece onto wadding, right side facing up, then tack. Lay a zip face-down along the top edge. Place the lining over it, right side down, then sew along 5mm from the teeth. Turn out to reveal the zip, then topstitch 5mm from the original seam.

2 Repeat with the back panels, securing the fastening on the other side. Place the pieces right side up. Turn the long sides of the zip end panels to the middle and glue, then fold them in half to enclose the raw edges. Sew the tabs to each zip end, matching the raw edges so they lay over it. Pin the outer and wadding pieces right sides together, then sew the bottom seam. Repeat for the lining, then turn right sides out.

3 Pin the lining, wadding and outer fabric for both sets of side panels together, right sides up. Taper both edges so that one end on each side measures 4cm wide. Tack the layers together and pin the short side to the zip end, matching the raw edges. Repeat for the other side, then sew them in place, leaving a 5mm margin at each end.

4 Position and sew the long sides of the tapered panel to the bag, then sew the bottom edge to the remaining depth of the bag to create a flat bottom. Trim the seam allowances to 3mm and use zig-zag stitch to reinforce. Cut 2.5cm-wide strips on the bias from lining to make binding. Turn the bag right sides out.



SPOTTY POUCH

1 Fuse interfacing to the back of the main fabric panel. Lay a 20cm zip face-down along the top edge, then the lining face-down over it. Pin and sew together, 5mm from the top edge of the teeth. Open the layers to reveal the zip, then topstitch 5mm from the original seam. Repeat on the other side, be sure to open the zip slightly before stitching. Fold the tabs to the middle and glue, then in half to enclose the raw edges.

2 Tack the tabs to each end of the zip, matching the raw edges. Turn the tube inside out and flatten so the zip lays in the centre. Pin and sew the sides seams together, then trim the seam allowance to 3mm and zig-zag stitch.

3 While the bag is inside out, bring the ends of each seam to the centre to create points. Hand-sew the points to the centre of the seam allowance at both ends, then turn the bag out. A natural pleat will form down each side.

STRIPY CASE

1 Place the strips right sides together and sew along one long edge. Open out and press, then pin the panel face-down onto the main outer piece, matching the raw edges. Sew the opposite long edge of the panel to the main piece. Unpin, flip the panel over, then press. Fold under 5mm on the remaining raw edge, pin, then slip stitch to the outer.

2 Fuse interfacing to the reverse of the outer fabric. Place the zip end panels face-down at each end of a 20cm zip. Sew across each end, 1cm in, then fold the fabric back to neaten. Lay the zip face-down along the top edge of the outer fabric and the lining right side down over it. Sew together, 5mm from the top edge of the teeth. Open the layers to reveal the zip, then topstitch 5mm from the original seam.

3 Repeat on the other side of the zip; this will create a tube, so open the zip slightly before stitching. Turn the tube out and flatten so the zip is 3.5cm down from the fold. Pin and sew the side seams together. Trim the seam allowance to 3mm, then use zig-zag stitch to reinforce and neaten. Bind the seams with 2.5cm strips of lining fabric.

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Pincushion pot

Make a set of patchwork pots to keep your essential supplies close to hand

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, patterned ★ Felt ★ Thin card ★ Hairspray bottle ★ Adhesive tape ★ Toy stuffing

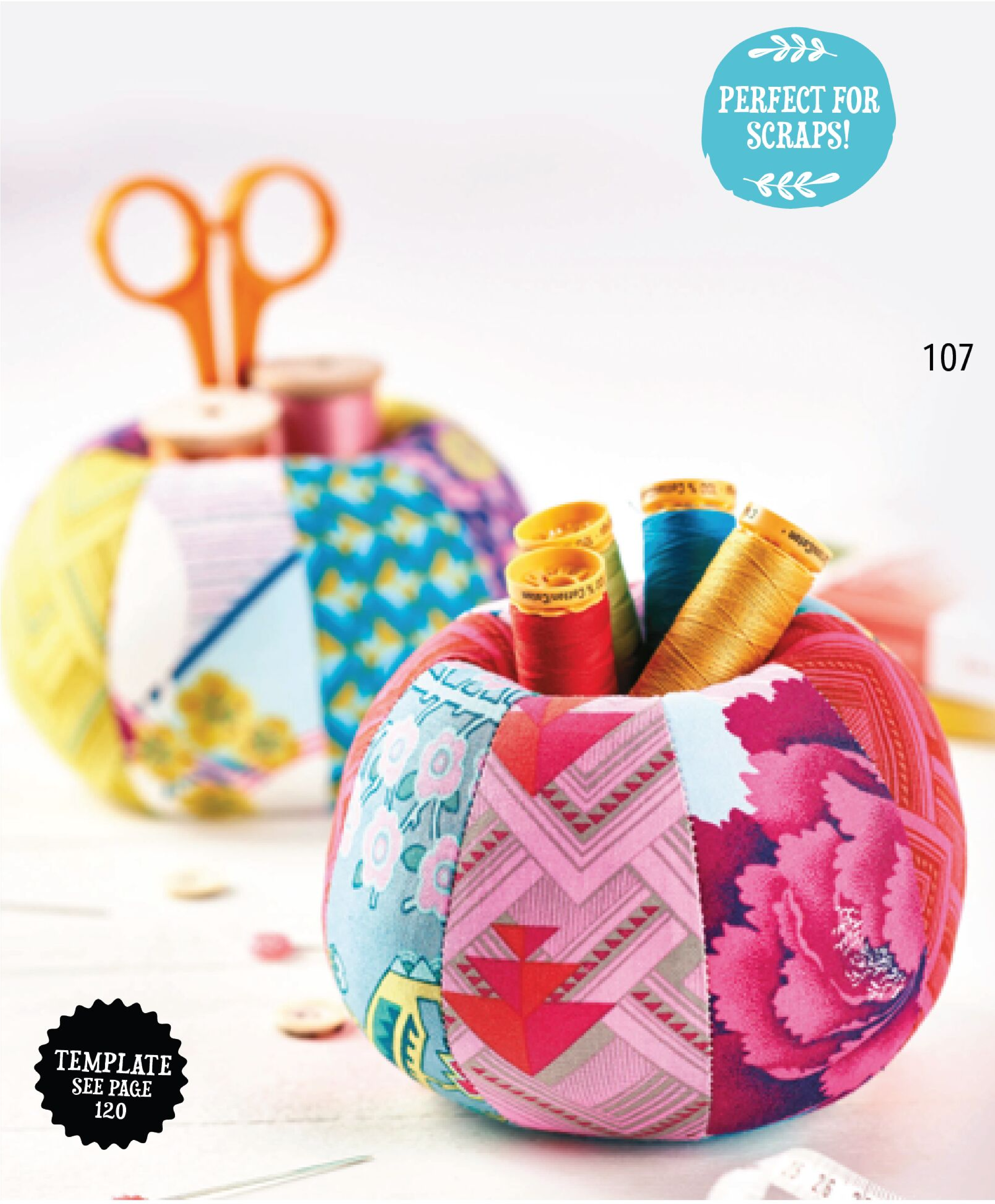
NB: use 5mm seam allowance

1 Copy the template from our pattern pages. Use it to cut eight pieces from patterned cotton, adding a 5mm seam allowance around. Stitch the long edges of each piece right sides together to make one long row, then press.

2 Sew an 8cm x 17cm rectangle of pink patterned fabric to one edge of the main patchwork, right sides together. Fold in half and stitch to make a tube. Turn under 5mm on both raw edges, then tack. While the tube is wrong sides out, slide it over a cylindrical object like a hairspray can.

3 Cut a 6.5cm wide piece of thin card long enough to wrap around the inner part of the tube twice and secure with tape. Keeping the fabric and card on the cylinder, lift the patchwork part over the inner so it is right side out. Stuff firmly between the outer and inner layers.

4 Slide the pincushion pot slightly off the cylinder, then pin and oversew the two tacked edges and card. Add more stuffing if necessary to ensure it's full and firm, then sew the gaps closed and take off the cylinder. Oversew an 8cm disc of felt to the base of the pot.



PERFECT FOR SCRAPS!

TEMPLATE SEE PAGE 120

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Coffee set

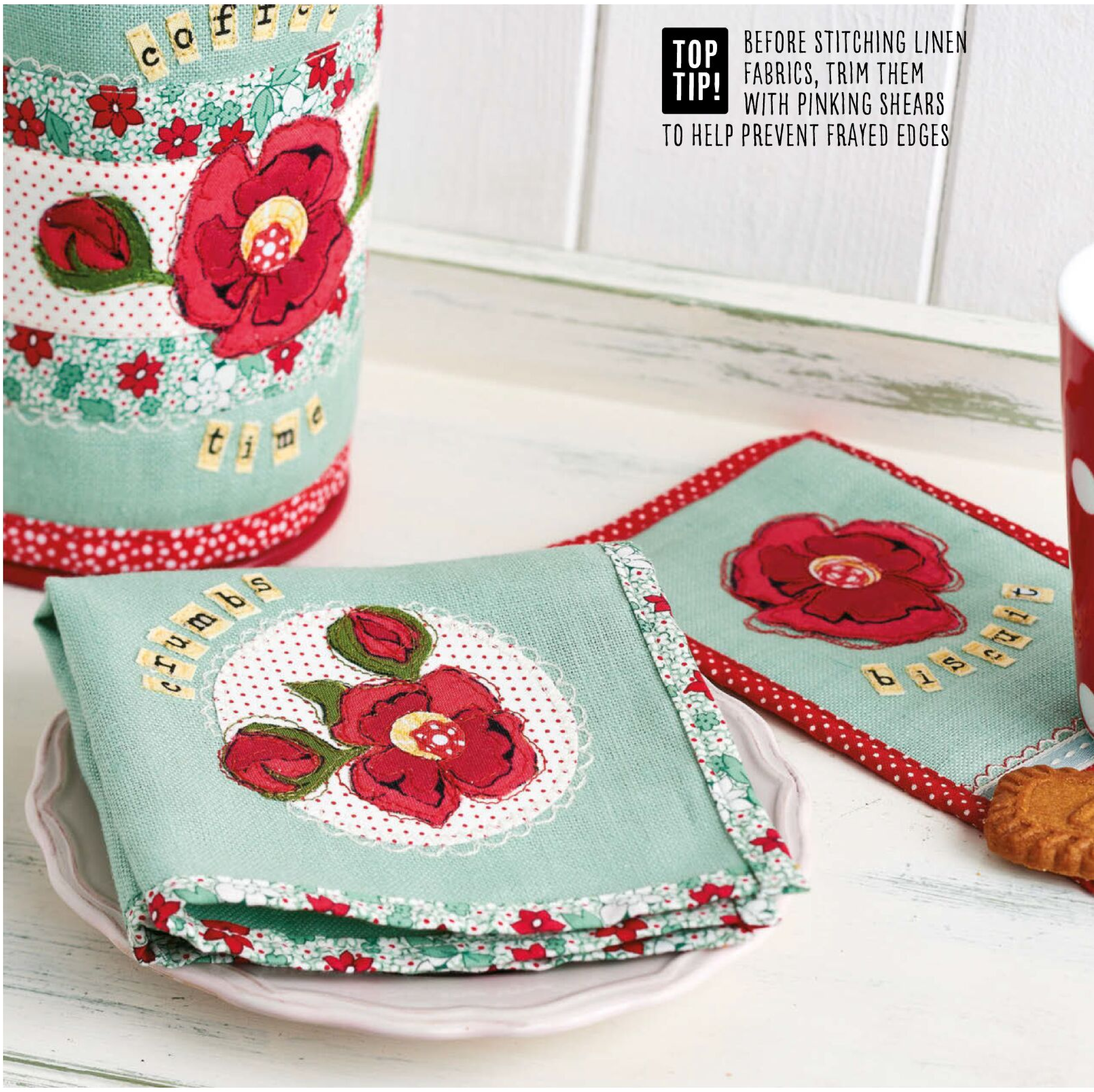
COLOUR TO SUIT YOUR SCHEME

Keep your brew hot and your table stylish with these floral linens

KIT LIST

★ Linen fabric: plain green ★ Cotton fabric: large floral; ditsy floral; red spot; cream spot; green spot; letter print ★ Ribbon, coordinating ★ Fusible interfacing, lightweight ★ Wadding ★ Glue, acid-free ★ Needle and thread ★ Pins ★ Iron and ironing board ★ Sewing machine and thread ★ Scissors ★ Fabric pencil ★ Tape measure

Napkin: 26cm square
Coaster: 10cm x 19.5cm
Pot warmer: 16cm x 31cm



TOP TIP! BEFORE STITCHING LINEN FABRICS, TRIM THEM WITH PINKING SHEARS TO HELP PREVENT FRAYED EDGES

EDGED COASTER

1 Cut a 4cm x 10cm piece of ditzy floral fabric and a 3cm x 10cm rectangle of red spotty print. Stitch them together by their long sides, with a 5mm seam allowance. Press the seam open.

2 Trim 10cm x 19.5cm of green linen and attach to the spotty edge of the panel. Cut a piece of ribbon and stitch it over the join. Work a scallop stitch down the side.

3 Cut a red flower from a large floral print and stitch securely to the linen, adding embroidery details for decoration. Press on the reverse. Cut the letters for 'biscuit' from printed fabric, back with interfacing and position under the flower. Stitch in place, and press.

4 Trim a piece of wadding the same size as the panel, and a rectangle of red spotty fabric which is 1.5cm bigger all the way round. Place the spotty print wrong side up and lay the wadding on top, followed by the front piece right side up. Pin in place. Starting at the bottom, fold the edges of the backing fabric over onto the front, then fold under again to hide the raw edges. Machine stitch in place close to the edge, taking care to mitre the corners. Press to finish.

APPLIQUÉ NAPKIN

1 Cut a 26cm square of linen and four 3cm x 28cm strips of ditzy floral fabric for the binding. Bind the sides of the linen, taking care on the corners, then press.

2 Trim a 7.5cm circle from cream spotty fabric, then a large red flower head and two buds from a large floral print. Back the circle with interfacing and place in one corner of the linen. Stitch in place and work a scallop pattern around it.

3 Place the flowers in the middle of the spotty circle, add decorative embroidery and sew around the edge to secure. Cut out the letters for 'Crumbs' from printed fabric and back with interfacing. Place above the circle and sew in place. Iron on the reverse.

CAFETIÉRE WARMER

1. Cut 16cm x 31cm from green linen, 9.5cm x 31cm from ditsy floral, then two 4cm x 38cm and two 4cm x 20cm strips from red spotty.
2. Fold each long edge of the ditsy floral piece over by 5mm and press to make a sharp crease. Pin across the middle of the green linen and stitch along both long sides, close to the edge. Then add a scallop pattern with stitching. Iron on the reverse.
3. Cut a 5cm x 31cm piece of cream spotty print and press each long side over by 5mm. Back with interfacing and place across the middle of the ditsy floral fabric, then stitch close to the edge.
4. Trim letters from printed fabric to make the phrase 'Coffee time' and back each of them with interfacing. Arrange above and below the central panel and stitch in place. Add a decorative border stitch to the top and bottom of the floral band, using a contrasting thread.
5. Cut a 16cm x 31cm piece of wadding and a rectangle of green spotty fabric the same size for the backing. Lay the wadding onto the wrong side of the front piece, then place the backing right side up and pin together. Quilt along all the horizontal lines of the panel. Trim away any excess to neaten the edges.
6. Lay the longer strips of spotty binding wrong side up, fold in half lengthways and iron the crease. Open the binding and fold each long side in to almost meet the centre fold and press. Place the strips over the top and bottom edges of the pot warmer, and stitch across the lengths.
7. Repeat for the shorter bindings, tucking a length of ribbon into the middle before stitching. Press the ribbon so it folds over itself and sew in place.

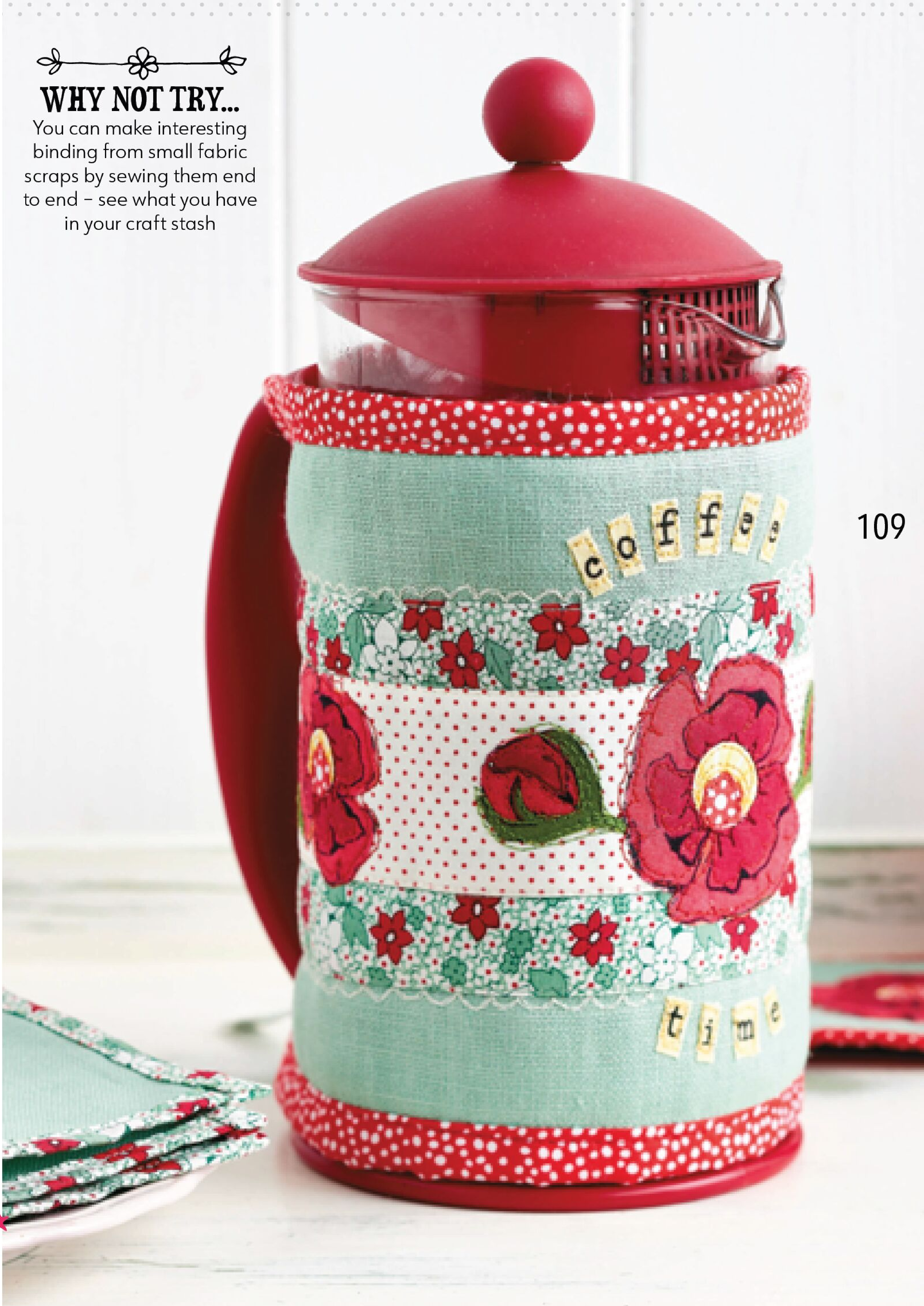
SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS

> *"Heat-resistant thermal wadding is ideal for the cafetiére cosy, and you could use any excess to make a matching pair of oven gloves"*

CAROLYN LETTEN DESIGNER

WHY NOT TRY...

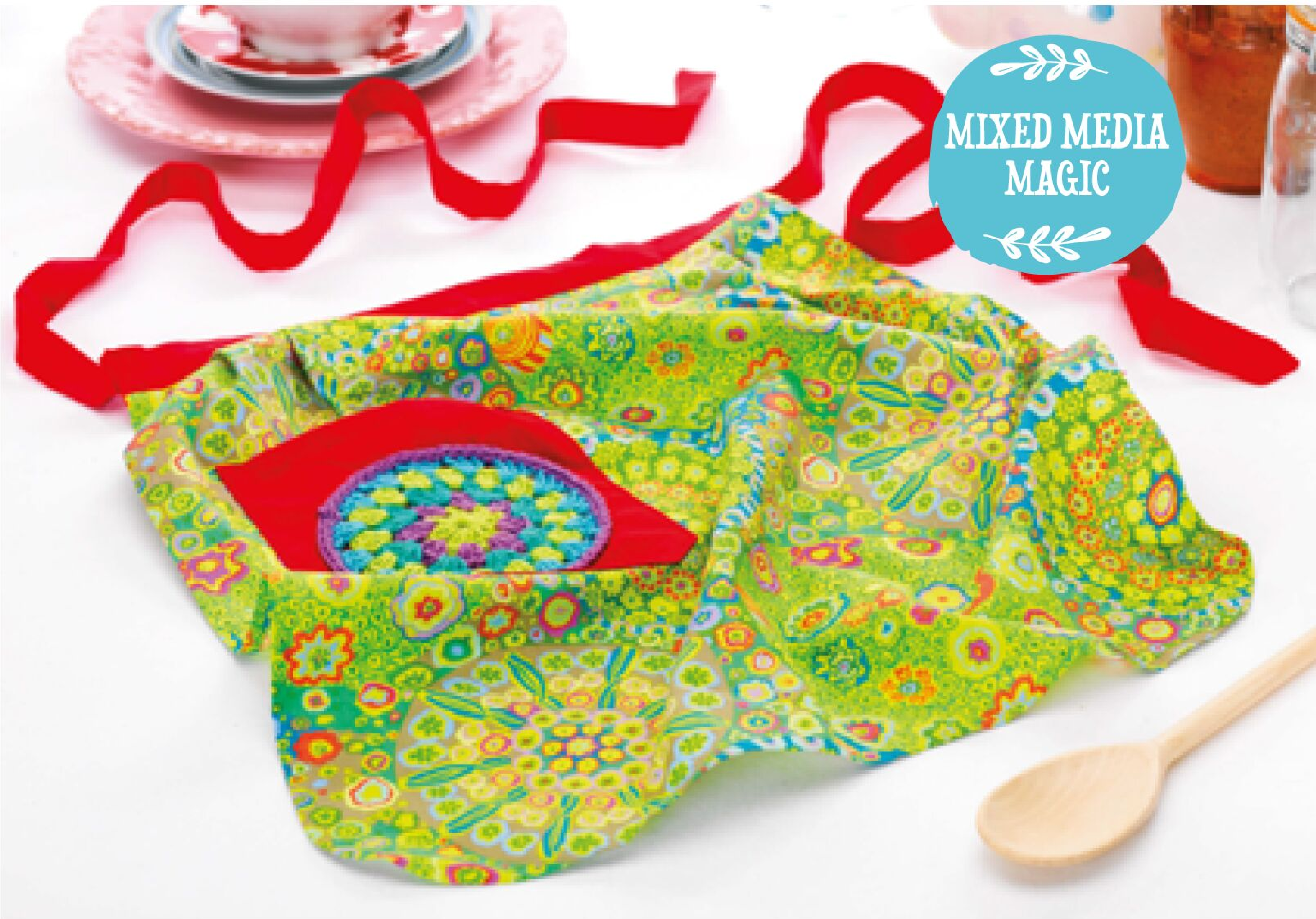
You can make interesting binding from small fabric scraps by sewing them end to end – see what you have in your craft stash



DESIGNER **LUCINDA GANDERTON**

Crocheted apron

Combine your sewing skills with crochet stitches for a make that's sure to brighten household chores



MIXED MEDIA MAGIC

KIT LIST

★ Two fat quarters, plain coral and patterned green ★ Yarn, DK: lime, aqua, lilac, blue ★ Plate ★ Fabric pencil ★ 3.5mm crochet hook

MOTIF

Using 3.5mm hook and lime yarn, make 6 ch and join with a sl st to create a ring

☐ Rnd 1: 3 ch, 1 tr, * 1 ch, 2 tr. Rep from * seven times, 1 ch, join to top of beg 3ch with sl st. Fasten off

☐ Rnd 2: Join lilac to 1 ch sp. (3 ch, 2 tr) in same sp, 1 ch, *3 tr in next sp, 1 ch. Rep from * seven times. Join to top of beg 3ch with sl st. Fasten off

☐ Rnd 3: Join aqua to 1 ch sp. (3 ch, 1 tr, 1 ch, 2 tr) in same sp, 1 ch, *3 tr, 1 ch, 3 ch in next sp, 1 ch. Rep from * seven times. Join to top of beg 3ch with sl st. Fasten off

☐ Rnd 4: Join lime to 1 ch sp. (3 ch, 2 tr in same sp), *3 tr in next sp. Rep from * 14 times. Join to top of beg 3ch with sl st. Fasten off

☐ Rnd 5: Join blue to 1 sp. (3 ch, 2 tr in same sp), 1 ch, *3 tr in next sp, 1 ch. Rep from * 14 times. Join to top of beg 3ch with sl st. Fasten off

☐ Rnd 6: Join lilac to top of 3 ch. Work 1 dc in each st to end. Join to first dc with sl st. Fasten off

IN STITCHES

ch: chain stitch
ch sp: chain space
dc: double crochet (US equivalent single crochet)
rep: repeat(ing)
sl st: slip stitch
sp(s): space(s)
st(s): stitch(es)
tr: treble crochet (US equivalent double crochet)

APRON

1 For the pocket, cut an 18cm x 20cm rectangle from coral cotton. Press under and stitch a double 1cm hem along the top edge. Press under a 1cm turning along the side and bottom edges, then press under 2cm at each corner. Sew the motif centrally to the pocket.

2 To make the apron, square off the edges of a fat quarter of patterned fabric so you have a perfect rectangle and place it, face downwards, on your work surface with the longer edges at top and bottom. Position a small saucer in each bottom corner in turn and draw round the curve with a sharp pencil. Cut around this line. Turn and tack under a double 6mm seam around the side and bottom edges. You'll need to gather the fabric in around the curves so they lie flat. Sew the hem by hand or machine. Pin and tack the pocket to the top left corner of the apron, 5cm in from the edge and 12cm down from the top. Stitch the side and bottom edges, working a few reinforcing stitches at the top edge. Pin and tack down two 1.5cm pleats along the top left edge, the first 5cm and the second 4cm from the corner. Do the same at the top right.

3 To make the waistband, cut an 8cm x 40cm strip of coral fabric. Press in half lengthways, then press under a 1cm turning along one long edge. With RS facing, and raw edges aligned, pin the strip centrally to the top of the apron. Machine stitch 6mm from the edge. Turn the folded edge to the WS and tack in place. Machine stitch the waistband down on the RS, 3mm from the seam line. Press the surplus fabric at the side edges to the back.

4 The ties are made from two 8cm x 89cm strips of cotton – you'll need to join two 8cm x 45cm strips together to create one 89cm length. Pin the long edges together and machine stitch the short ends together at an angle to create a pointed end. Stitch the long edges together leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Turn the finished ties inside out and press. Press under a 1cm turning at the raw ends of the ties and pin to the WS of the waist band. Machine stitch in place.

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Sleep set

Enjoy some rest and relaxation with our pampering duo

KIT LIST

- Cotton jersey, 50cm
- White cotton, fat quarter
- Coordinating ric-rac braid, 2.5m
- Toy stuffing
- Quilt wadding
- Elastic, 40cm (1cm wide)

NB: use 1cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

CUTTING GUIDE

- **Neck pillow:** cut two each from from jersey and plain cotton
- **Eye mask:** cut one each from jersey, plain cotton and wadding

NECK PILLOW

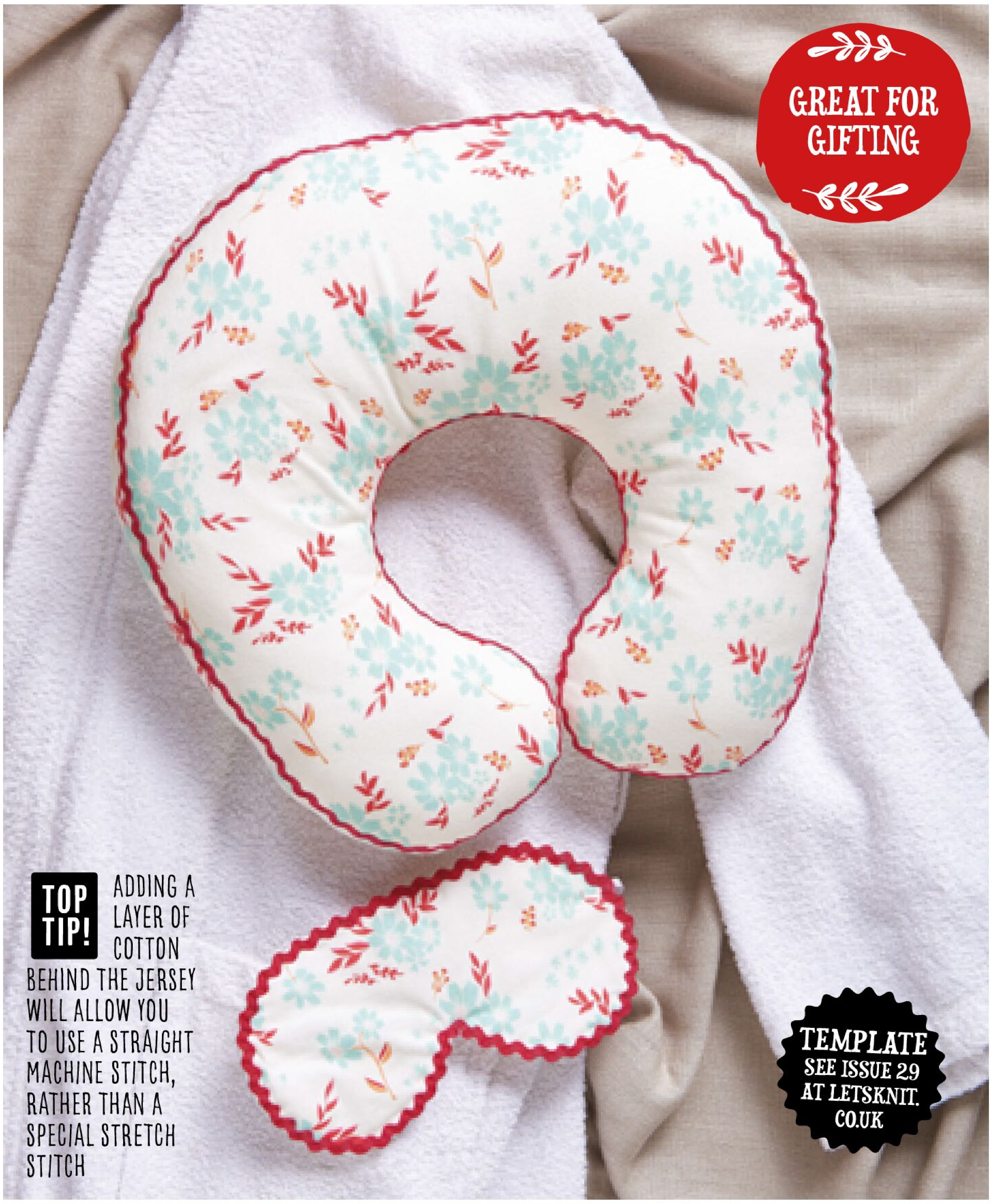
1 Download and print the template at letsknit.co.uk. Cut out the pieces according to the cutting guide, tracing the template onto the wrong side of the fabric and adding an extra 1cm for the seam allowance. Sandwich the jersey pieces right sides together and pin the cotton piece on top, either way up. Sew around the edge, leaving a 10cm wide gap in the middle of the outer curve for turning.

2 Clip the inside curve of the seam and turn the pillow right side out. Stuff between the cotton layer and one jersey layer so that the other jersey layer is lined with the cotton. Use small handfuls of stuffing so the pillow gradually forms a smooth surface without stretching the fabric. Slipstitch the gap closed. Use a small running to attach a length of coordinating ric-rac braid along the seam line.

EYE MASK

1 Cut out the pieces according to the cutting guide, adding a 1cm seam allowance around the edge of the template. Layer the jersey and cotton, right sides together, then pin the wadding on top. Sew around the edges, leaving a 6cm gap along the top edge for turning. Trim the seam allowance to 3mm and clip the tight curves. Turn the mask right side out, fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed. Lightly press the mask with an iron.

2 Sew ric-rac braid around the edge with a small running stitch and attach one end of the elastic to the back of the mask where indicated on the template. Try on the mask to ensure a snug but comfy fit, holding the elastic taut across the back of your head, and trim to fit before stitching the other end in place.



GREAT FOR GIFTING

TOP TIP! ADDING A LAYER OF COTTON BEHIND THE JERSEY WILL ALLOW YOU TO USE A STRAIGHT MACHINE STITCH, RATHER THAN A SPECIAL STRETCH STITCH

TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Russian dolls

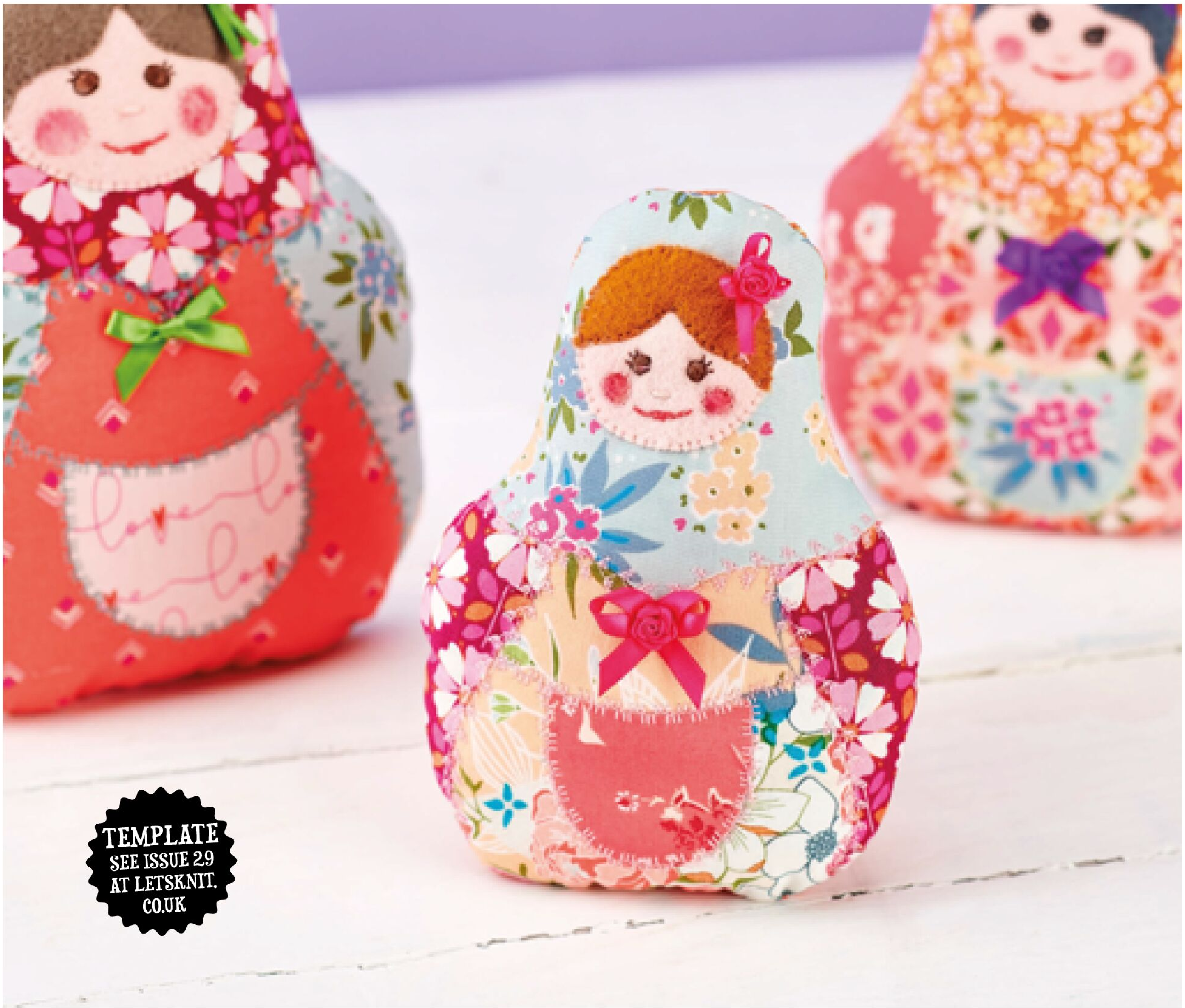
Follow three steps to stitch these classic characters in your little one's favourite shades

KIT LIST

- ★ Fabric, cotton, assorted print, fat quarters
- ★ Ribbon trims
- ★ Lightweight quilt wadding
- ★ Fusible appliqué sheet
- ★ Embroidery threads
- ★ Fibre filling
- ★ Colouring pencils
- ★ Felt, assorted colours

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut two body pieces from the background fabric. Place both onto quilt wadding and trim to the edges before zig-zag stitching around both shapes to bind the layers together. Iron a fusible adhesive sheet onto the reverse of the other cotton print pieces then trace the headscarf, apron, and mirrored shawl shapes onto the paper backing. Cut out and peel away the backing. Lay the shapes onto one body piece and secure with a medium iron.

2 Choose a coordinating thread and use either a small zig-zag or decorative machine stitch to bind the appliqué pieces onto the body. Fuse coloured felt onto a piece of plain cotton fabric with an appliqué sheet and cut out the face. Snip the hair piece and stitch it to the top of the head with a small oversew and two strands of matching thread. Use a soft pink pencil to sketch facial features onto the felt. Embroider the features with two strands of thread. Use soft coloured pencils to fill in the circles of the eyes and cheeks. Oversew

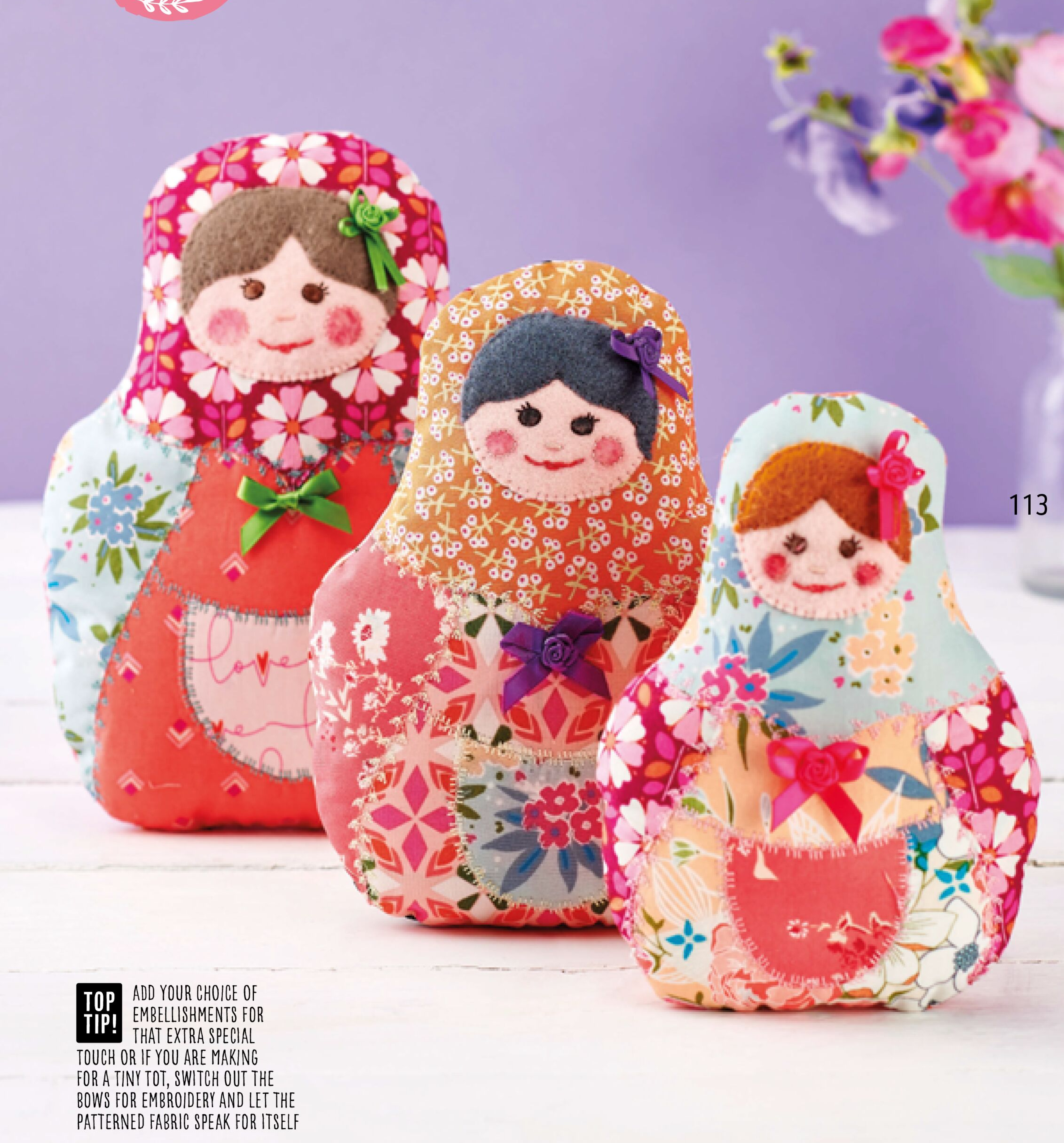


TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29
AT LETSKNIT.
CO.UK

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

the face onto the body piece.

3 Place the remaining body piece onto the decorated one, right sides together, stitch all the way round with a 5mm seam allowance leaving a 4cm gap in the bottom edge. Trim the seam allowance with pinking shears for a smoother outline and turn right sides out. Press the seam out on the back of the doll before stuffing with fibre filling. Turn in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed. Add ribbon bow trims to the hair and base of the headscarf with a few small hand-stitches.



TOP TIP! ADD YOUR CHOICE OF EMBELLISHMENTS FOR THAT EXTRA SPECIAL TOUCH OR IF YOU ARE MAKING FOR A TINY TOT, SWITCH OUT THE BOWS FOR EMBROIDERY AND LET THE PATTERNED FABRIC SPEAK FOR ITSELF

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Amanda the panda

Show your love to someone special by stitching this cuddly companion

WEEKEND WONDER

KIT LIST

★ Fabric, assorted cotton fat quarters ★ Sheets: iron-on adhesive ★ Fibre filling ★ Buttons ★ Glue ★ Embroidery thread

1 Download and print the templates at letsknit.co.uk. Cut a front head and body from light-coloured fabric and a back head, body and limb pieces from dark blue, adding a 5mm seam allowance to each piece. Trim two hearts from orange fabric and two eye patches from fusible adhesive sheet, without a seam allowance.

2 Place all limb and ear pieces right sides facing and sew together, leaving the straight edges open. Turn out, press the ears and firmly stuff the end two thirds of the limbs, placing a pin across each one to prevent the fibre filling expanding into the open end.

3 Iron the adhesive patches onto the reverse of dark fabric and cut out before peeling away the backing sheet. Fix the eye patches to the right side of both head front pieces and zig-zag stitch all the way around to secure. Place the head fronts right sides together and sew from the forehead down to the front of the neck.

4 Open out the front head and sew to the body, matching up the neck. Place the ears and limbs against the right side of the head and body front, matching up the raw edges, and tack in place. Pin and stitch the back of the head and the back of the body to the main shape, right sides together, leaving the neck seam open. Remove pins from the limbs before turning out.

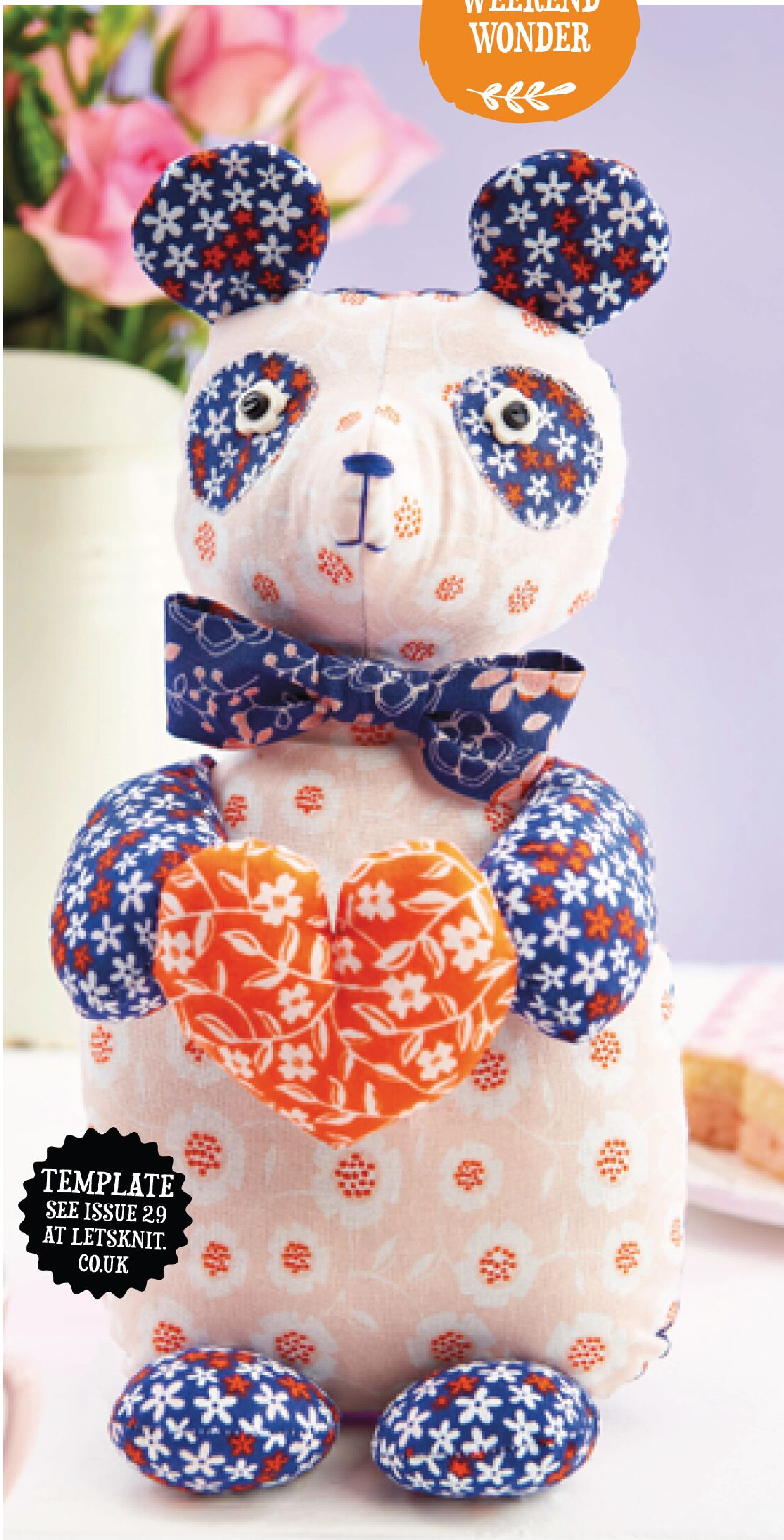
5 Firmly stuff the head and body of the panda, working the filling well into the nose. Fold in the raw edges of the back neck seam and oversew closed. Embroider a nose and mouth, then add layered black and white buttons to the top centre of each eye patch.

6 Sew the two heart shapes right sides together, leaving a small gap in one straight section. Turn out, stuff, fold in the raw edges and oversew closed. Stitch the edges of each paw to the sides of the heart so the panda appears to be holding it.

7 Cut blue fabric, 5cm x 20cm. Fold in 1cm on both long edges and glue down. Snip a 3cm length off the end of the strip before folding the short ends to the middle and tacking in place. Wrap the 3cm length around the centre of the resulting bow and oversew the join before stitching to the front of the neck.

WHY NOT TRY...

Personalise the heart with an embroidered monogram or message written in fabric pen

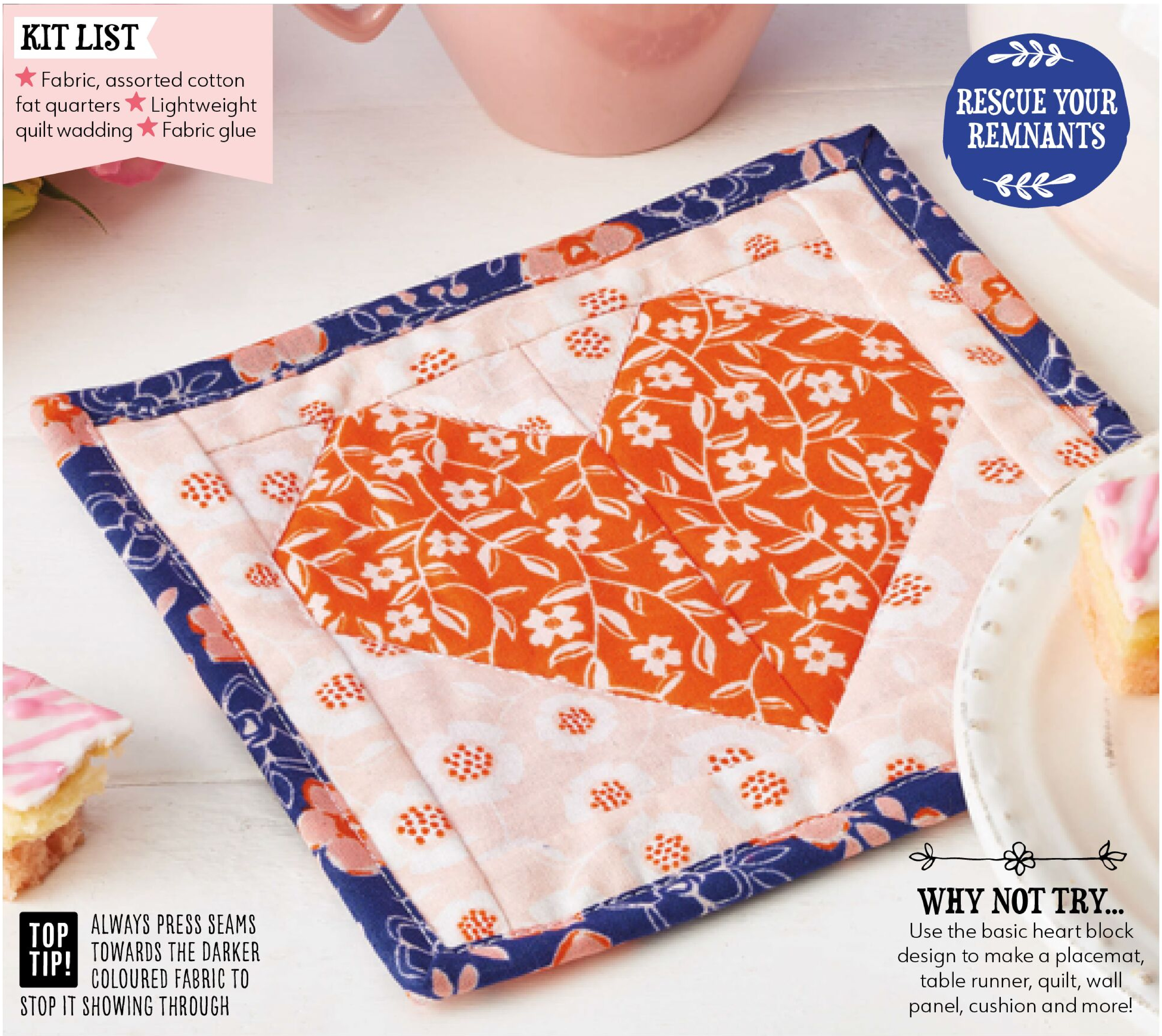


TEMPLATE
SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

DESIGNER **CORINNE BRADD**

Heart trivet

Learn how to make a patchwork block using half square triangles



KIT LIST

★ Fabric, assorted cotton fat quarters ★ Lightweight quilt wadding ★ Fabric glue

RESCUE YOUR REMNANTS

WHY NOT TRY...

Use the basic heart block design to make a placemat, table runner, quilt, wall panel, cushion and more!

TOP TIP! ALWAYS PRESS SEAMS TOWARDS THE DARKER COLOURED FABRIC TO STOP IT SHOWING THROUGH

1 Cut two pieces of orange fabric, 7cm x 12cm. Snip two 4cm squares and one 7.5cm square from light-coloured fabric. Trim all the triangles in half diagonally and press under 5mm along the diagonal edge, taking care not to stretch the material as you do so.

2 Glue the folded edge of a larger triangle to one end of an orange rectangle, matching up the raw edges. Glue two smaller triangles to the corners of the other end of the rectangle in the same way.

3 Make up the other rectangular panel in the same way but as a mirror image of the first. Place the two rectangles, right sides facing, and sew together to make a heart. Open out and press. Cut several 3cm wide strips of light-coloured fabric and stitch to the sides of the panel to make an overlapped border.

4 Layer onto a square of wadding and plain backing cotton, then topstitch around the heart, securing the glued edges as you do so. Cut several 3cm wide strips of blue fabric, join end to end to make a continuous strip and use this to bind the edges of the trivet, mitring the corners neatly.

DESIGNER **CAROLYN LETTEN**

Home comforts

Send warm wishes to a friend who is moving house with this stitchy gift set

KIT LIST

★ Card blank, white ★ Scrap paper and card ★ Letter stamps ★ Black ink pad ★ Fabric: patterned, coloured, scraps ★ Ribbon ★ Stuffing ★ Interfacing, lightweight ★ Dried rice ★ Adhesives ★ Glitter glue

HOME CARD

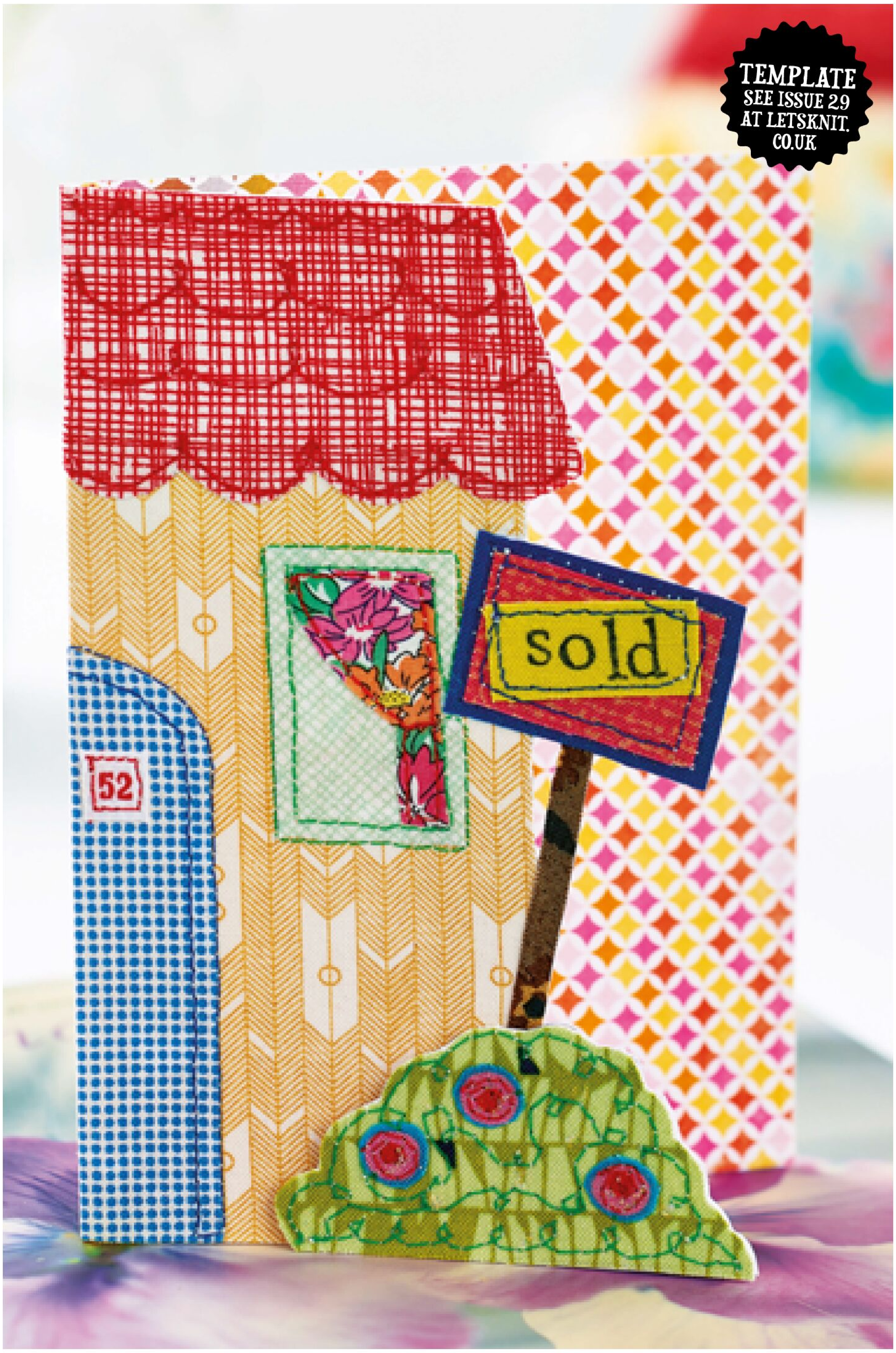
1 Cut a complete template from paper. Lay onto a card blank, lining the spine up with the edge of the shape, then draw around it. Trim the excess card. Using the paper template, cut out a sign and bush.

2 Using the remaining shape, cut a house front from cream fabric, then stick it to the card as shown. Cut a roof from red fabric, then glue in place. Trim a bush from green fabric, then stick to scrap card.

3 Leave to dry, then machine stitch details in green. Sew three pink flowers to the shape, then cut away excess card. Create a fabric door and windows, stick in place, leave to dry, then machine stitch details.

4 Sew a fabric curtain in the window frame. Machine stitch three scalloped lines across the roof in red. Make a blue fabric panel for the sign, plus another pink panel slightly smaller, then stick both in place.

5 Stamp a phrase onto yellow fabric, cut to size and stick to the sign. Once dry, sew around the border and stick it to the card. Add a brown strip of fabric to the post. Fix the bush to the front, using foam pads. Highlight the flowers with glitter glue.



TEMPLATE SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

FABRIC HOUSE

1 Using the templates, cut a house front and back from neutral fabric. From red material, cut a roof front and back. Pin the roof to the house at each side, right sides together, with a 5mm seam allowance. Press the seam open on the reverse.

2 Cut two sets of the three-tiered scallop roof shapes from various red fabrics. Back them with interfacing, making sure you turn the template for the back of the house. Iron, then tidy the scallop edges with scissors.

3 Lay the front and back of the house right side up. Pin the first line of scallops across the roof line, so the decorative edge covers the join. Using white thread, machine or hand stitch across the scallops, just above the raw edge.

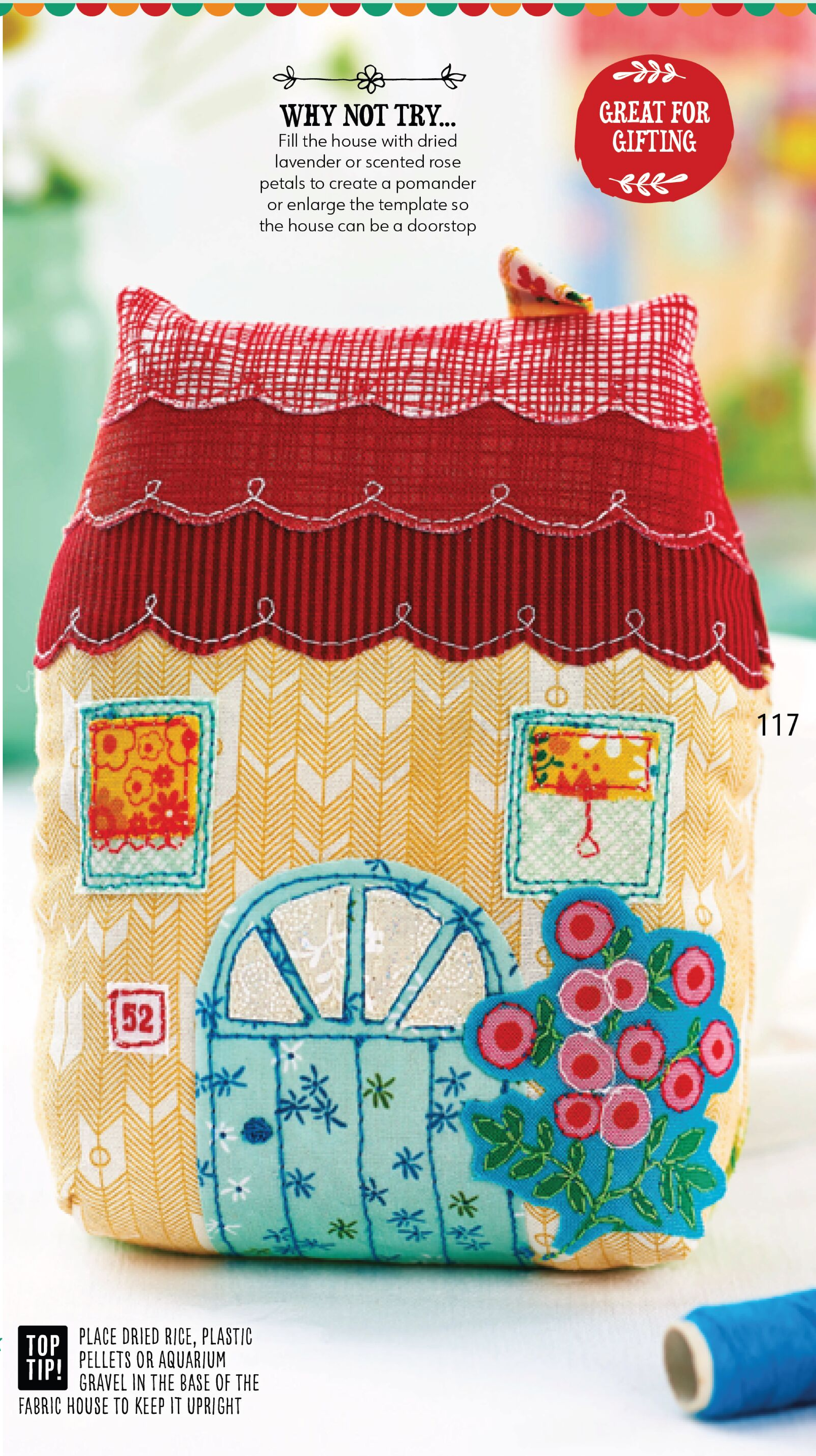
4 Repeat the previous step for the last two scallop strips, overlapping the straight edges on the previous one. Cut the remaining shapes on the template from various fabrics. Pin the door, windows and blinds in place as shown, then machine or hand stitch using co-ordinating thread.

5 Create a panel from green material, pin it to the back of the house, then secure with zig-zag stitch to resemble grass. Trim floral prints from fabric, pin, then sew to the front and back of the house, as shown.

6 Pin the front and back of the house, right sides together. Place a small ribbon loop inside the top of the roof, raw ends sticking out slightly. Machine stitch around the edges, leaving a 4cm gap on one side for turning.

7 Pull the front and back shapes apart slightly so the corners open, then push the two stitched seams together to create a straight line. Stitch across the raw edge to close the corner, then repeat on the other side. Trim the corners of the roof, turn out, stuff firmly and hand sew the gap closed.

SEE P120 FOR A LIST OF STITCHING TERMS



WHY NOT TRY...

Fill the house with dried lavender or scented rose petals to create a pomander or enlarge the template so the house can be a doorstop

GREAT FOR GIFTING

TOP TIP! PLACE DRIED RICE, PLASTIC PELLETS OR AQUARIUM GRAVEL IN THE BASE OF THE FABRIC HOUSE TO KEEP IT UPRIGHT

TOY SCHOOL

Take the time to get the finer details right on your soft toys

When making soft toys, we firmly believe that if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well and the choices you make from tools to fabric are key in achieving a final result you'll be proud of. So take a look at our guide and give your finished creation that expert touch!

BONUS DOWNLOAD
FIND THESE TOY LABELS AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

KNOW YOUR STUFF

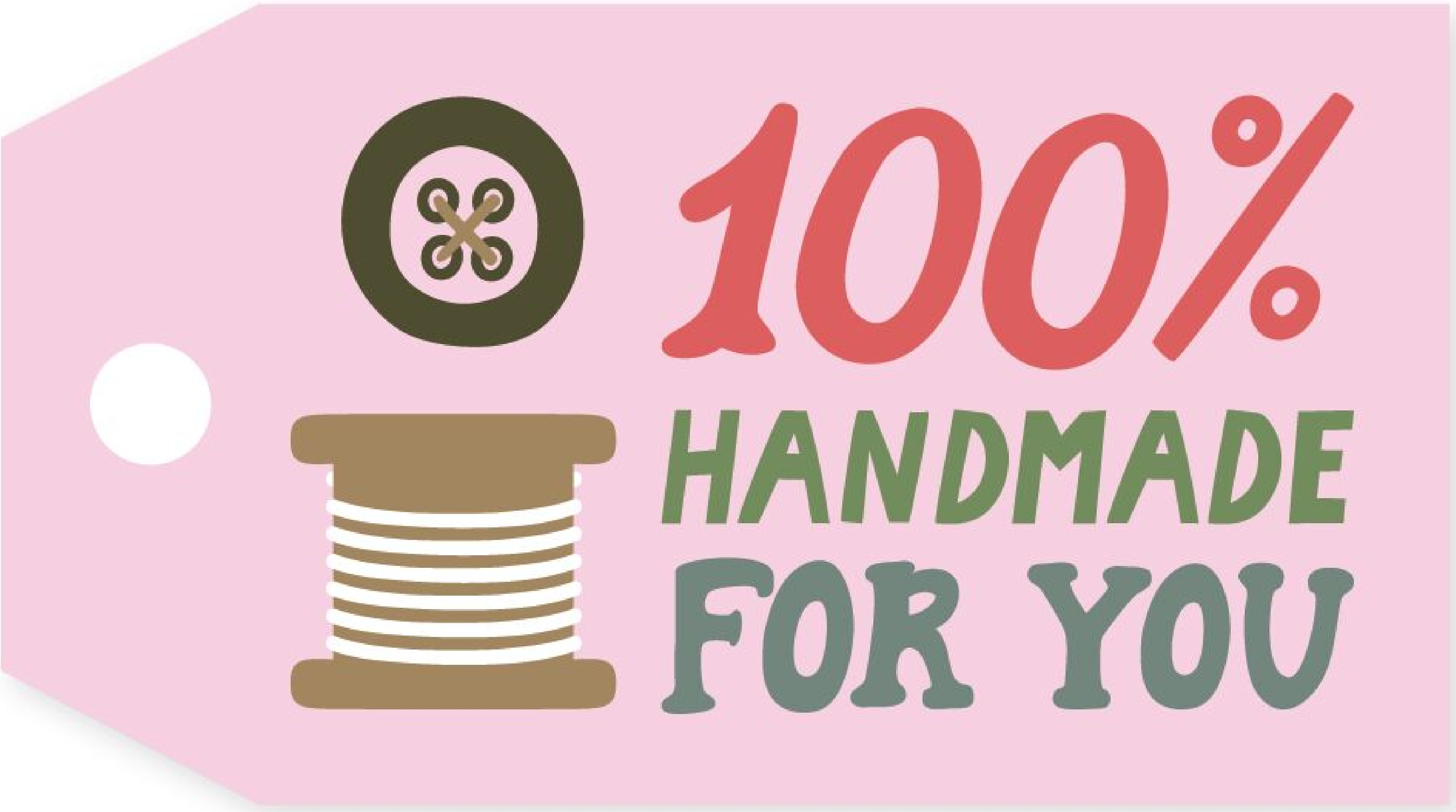
Stuffing your toy is when you really see your project coming to life. A well-stuffed toy is the difference between it being lumpy and limp, or firm and evenly filled. Tease out the stuffing between your fingers before inserting it, so it's fluffier, and that each piece is a similar size. Ensure the filling reaches into all nooks and crannies by using a thin tool such as a knitting needle or chopstick to poke it in. This is especially useful for details such as ears and fingers, which are likely to be well-handled by little ones.

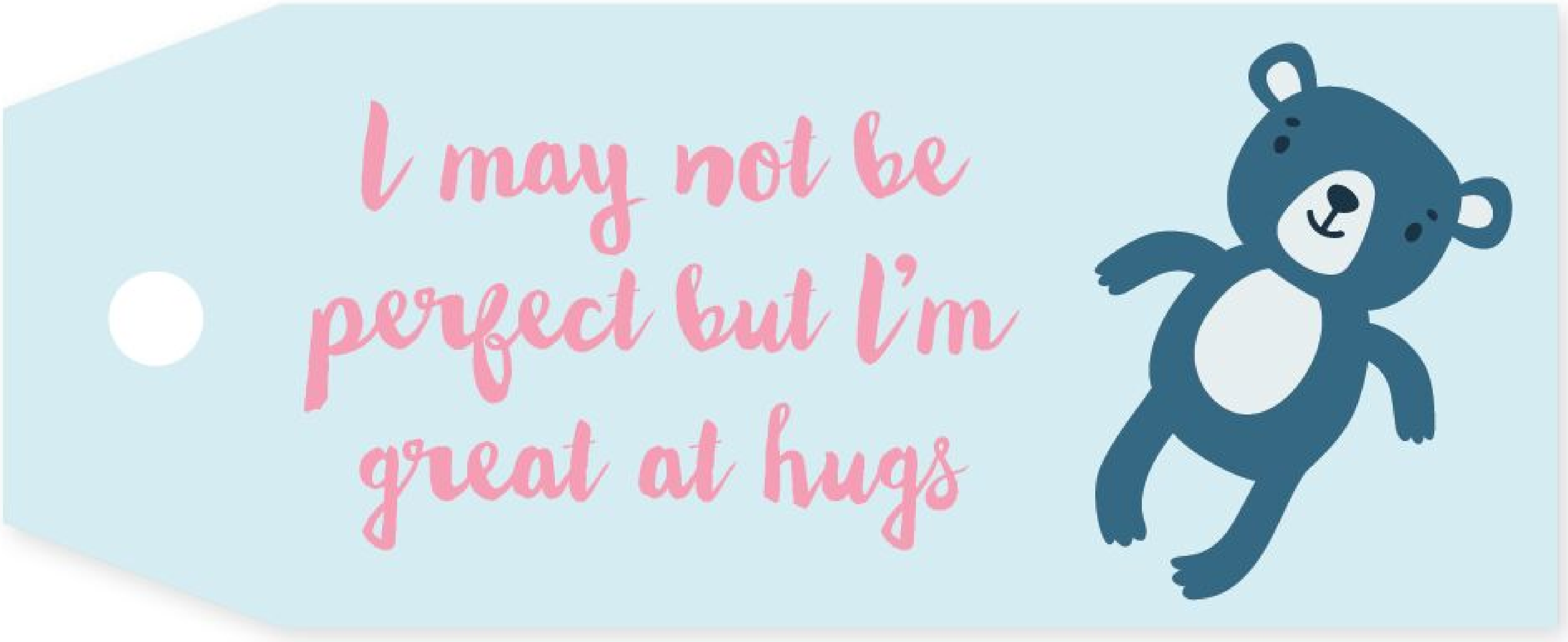
THE RIGHT START

Sewing up your toy is the most important part of the making process. so take your time when putting it together, and check you're happy at each stage with how your toy is looking. Early mistakes can be carefully unpicked and rectified and though it might take you more time, the end result will be worth it!

TOY SAFETY

★ If making for a baby or tot, omit loose embellishments and embroider details such as the face instead.
★ Use strong stitching to prevent stuffing escaping.
★ Use hypo-allergenic toy filling and materials that are chemical-free or organic fabrics if possible.
★ Think about using materials that can be easily machine washed to get rid of dirt and bacteria.




I may not be perfect but I'm great at hugs

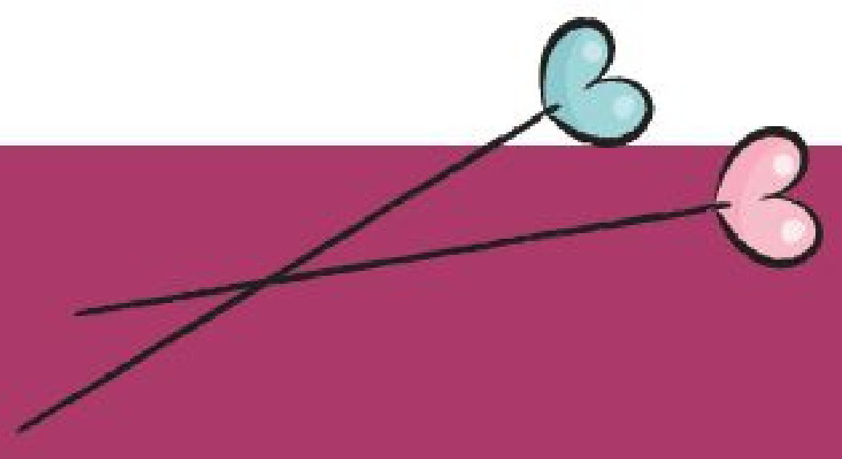
SAVE FACE

Many of us will look back on our early days of toymaking and smile at a wonky eye here and a mouth that looks more like a grimace than a smile. Toymaking is a learning curve and quirky features definitely add character.

To ensure something that's cute and not scary, we recommend embroidering faces after you've stuffed them. Before sewing the eyes, place two round pieces of fabric on the face to work out the best location. Similarly, for the nose and mouth, cut pieces of scrap fabric in triangle and oval shapes and place them on the face to find the best match. Then you can draw facial features onto the head of your toy with tailor's chalk. Use the lines of your drawing to guide you as you work your neat stitches. There are many ways to add eyes to your projects, including toy safety eyes, buttons or beads. But when making toys for young children these may not be suitable for safety reasons, so we always recommend embroidering instead.

Let's snuggle

MATERIAL WORLD



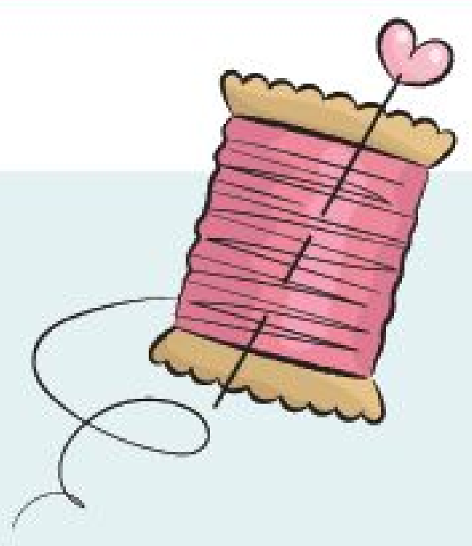
We love the effect achieved when mixing plain and patterned fabric – is there anything cuter than a hint of floral lining within a soft toy animal's ear, or the details on a doll's dress? Toymaking is also the ideal chance to use up fabric scraps in your stash or fat quarters that you possibly won't ever turn into that quilt. Below are the most common soft toy making materials, but we also love the idea of using upholstery fabric, fur, corduroy or velvet. In fact, whatever little bits of fabric you've got stored in your stash can become part of a soft toy, so think twice before getting rid of those old babygrows or duvet covers!

COTTON: The best choice when making for babies or toddlers, choose hypoallergenic and natural fabrics where you can to ensure the toy is gentle against delicate skin. Cotton has little stretch, a tight weave that will give a smooth finish, and comes in lots of colours and beautiful prints, plus it is durable and washable.

FLEECE: This option ensures a final result that is extra cuddly but is trickier to work with.

FELT: Ideal for adding details like paw pads, a soft tummy, or cheeks, eyes and noses. It cuts easily, won't fray and looks so cute for those final touches.

TOP TIPS



1 Keep stitches short and strong enough to withstand rough play, like little fingers that might poke a loose stitch and pull out the stuffing – use double and triple stitches where possible.

2 Stuff your make firmly so that the toy does not eventually go out of shape. Pay special attention to joints and small parts such as fingers and ears as they tend to flop if not stuffed properly.

3 Place eyes and noses cut from scrap fabric on your toy's face to work out where the facial features look their cutest. Then mark them with tailor's chalk before embroidering them on.

4 Why not mix and match different fabrics and materials when making your soft toy? A pop of Liberty fabric inside an ear or as a paw pad looks so darling!

5 Embrace imperfection! The odd crooked limb or facial feature adds to the charm of a handmade toy, and your skills will improve the more you make!

6 Use short, neat back stitches to embroider cute features like eyes, noses, mouths and whiskers to add extra character to your toys.

Welcome to the world!

BEHIND THE SEAMS

Use a good seam allowance for toy-making, so you have plenty of fabric to work with while sewing pieces together. When stitching, ensure fabric is placed with the right sides together. Use a neat and tiny stitch length on the seams, so there's no chance of them tearing during stuffing or when being played with. Also, leave a large enough hole to comfortably turn the pieces out and to get the stuffing in, but small enough that the final closed section of the seam is almost invisible. Lastly, be sure to use strong cotton thread that won't break to prevent filling escaping; performing emergency surgery on soft toys can be a risky business!

MAKE THE CUT!

★ Before cutting out your patterns, you may wish to photocopy the template pages and snip from there, to avoid cutting up your precious magazine. You could even create 'master' copies with cardboard so you can re-use them, especially if you're crafting a classic toy that you're likely to make again.

★ Invest in a cutting mat that you can keep clean and dedicate to fabric cutting alone – this is important when using a rotary cutter, which we recommend for straight cuts. Use a fresh blade to achieve neat, straight cuts. For more intricate shapes, you'll need a decent pair of fabric scissors; keep them sharp to avoid frayed edges on your fabric and don't use them to cut anything other than fabric. Store the mat flat when not in use.

★ Before cutting out the shapes, press fabric using a medium heat iron then pin each piece to it, ensuring that each is lying flat. This will help with accuracy when cutting.

★ Draw around each shape and cut your pieces out leaving a seam allowance to ensure your seams are sturdy when sewn (and stuffed). Check the pattern to determine the seam allowance required for your project – this could be anything from 3mm to 1cm.

★ Once you've cut out all your template pieces, keep them in a project bag or zip lock bag so there's no risk of accidentally losing one.

Stuffed full of cuddles

TECHNIQUES & TEMPLATES

Essential advice for all your sewing projects

STITCH TERMS

APPLIQUÉ: Decorative technique with pieces of fabric stitched on top of another

BACK STITCH: A hand stitch made by inserting the needle at the mid-point of a preceding stitch so that stitches overlap by half lengths. Strong stitch used for outlining and seams

BACK TACK: Set the machine to reverse and work back over a couple of stitches to secure

BIAS BINDING: Narrow strips of fabric used to create neat finishes to hems and edgings

BOBBIN: Removable spool underneath the needle plate on a sewing machine where the lower thread is wound

GRAIN: The lengthways and crossways directions of the threads in the fabric

INTERFACING: Fabric placed between the main materials to give item structure, available in a range of weights

PRESSER FOOT: Part of the sewing machine that is lowered over the fabric to hold in place while stitching

RAW EDGE: The cut edge of fabric. This can be finished with zig-zag machine stitch to prevent fraying

REVERSE STITCH: A sewing machine setting that allows you to work back over a row of stitches to secure

RS/RIGHT SIDE: The side of the fabric that will be on show when the project is completed. When given the instruction 'right sides facing', place the fabric right sides together

RUNNING STITCH: pass the needle in and out of the fabric at a regular distance to form a dashed line

SEAM ALLOWANCE: Amount of fabric allowed for turning to make a seam

STAY STITCH: Straight machine stitch worked just inside a seam allowance to strengthen it and prevent breaking

STRAIGHT STITCH: a simple stitch, often used for outlining a shape or for thin lines, can be used to form stars and scattered fills or texture. Bring needle up then back down

TACKING STITCH: A hand sewn temporary stitch used to hold fabrics together, or as a guide before stitching

TOP STITCH: A machine straight stitch used on the right side of an item, often in contrasting colour for decorative effect

WHIP STITCH: This finishes off the raw edges of the fabric, essentially by 'wrapping' it with thread. Using a single strand of thread, bring the needle from the back to the front of the work, take the thread over the edge of the fabric, and insert the needle next to the previous thread; the space between where you insert the needle will affect the angle of the overcast stitch

WS/WRONG SIDE: The reverse side of the fabric, which will be the inside of the completed garment or project

ZIG-ZAG STITCH: A machine stitch used to secure raw edges of fabric and for decoration, used in a variety of sizes

FABRIC ADVICE

★ It is advisable to launder the fabric, as you would the completed item, before you start cutting. This ensures that you will know how the fabric reacts and reduces the possibility of shrinkage in the completed project

★ Press the fabric with an iron on a suitable setting, and lay out in a large space ready for pinning the pattern pieces to it

★ Fabric is usually folded selvedge to selvedge. With the material folded, the pattern is pinned to the top. Once cut, the opened fabric will be twice the size of the paper pattern piece. If your fabric is patterned, it is advisable to place the design outermost so that you can lay out the pieces in a pleasing manner to suit the printed motif

MACHINE CARE

★ Keep your machine under cover when not in use to prevent dust gathering in moving parts

★ Clean your machine regularly, be sure to unplug it first. Many experts advise against using compressed air – a lint brush or dry cloth should do

★ Use good quality machine thread to prevent lint build up. Avoid those with waxed or glazed coatings

★ Remove the needle plate and 'de-fluff' the area around the bobbin with a brush each time you change the bobbin, and even more frequently if sewing fluffy fabrics such as fleece

★ Change the needle regularly as dull, blunt ones will affect the stitching quality. Aim to replace it after 8-10 hours of active stitching or once you've finished a big project

★ After every use, be sure to check the needle, bobbin and thread tension so any problems can be addressed before you start another project

★ Oil a machine regularly if you have a mechanical model, referring to the instruction manual. Only use a recommended oil – and just a couple of drops

★ Seek a trusted professional for servicing

THREAD FACTS

★ You should select a thread that meets your specific sewing needs. Your fabric will have an influence on the type of thread you select. As a rule the fibre content of your thread should be the same or similar to the fabric

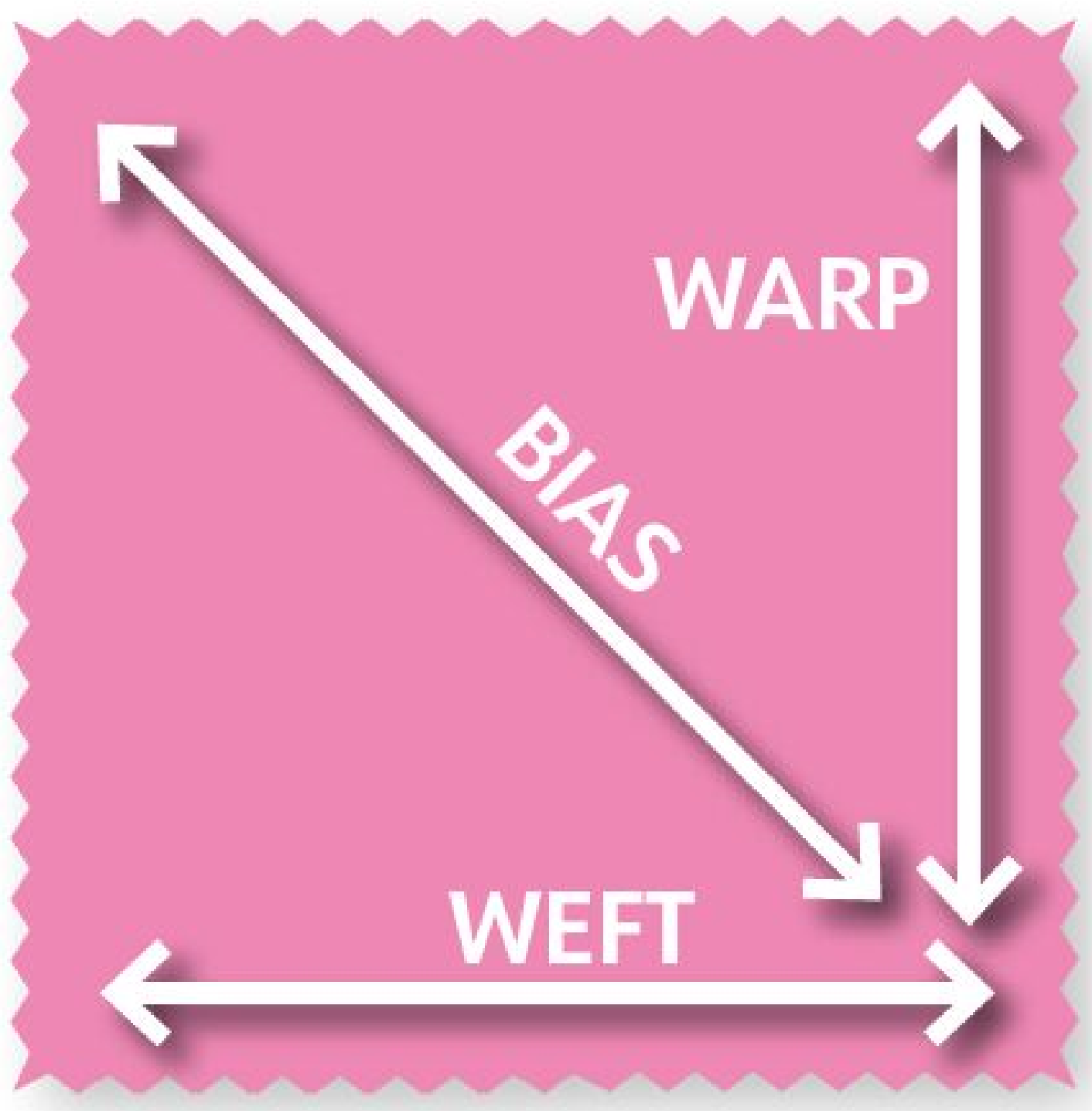
★ Heavyweight fabrics require a thicker thread and lightweight versions require a finer thread. Very lightweight or sheer fabrics are best sewn with a very fine needle and an extra fine thread

★ Using the correct thread thickness may help to reduce puckering, a problem frequently encountered when sewing with lightweight fabrics

★ Don't forget to consider the care requirements of your thread choice. They should be compatible with the fabric care recommendations

UNDERSTAND YOUR FABRIC

Getting to grips with your fabric is a fundamental part of sewing. Before you start, familiarise yourself with:



Warp These are the yarns that run the length of the fabric. They are stronger than weft yarns and less likely to stretch.

Weft These run over and under the warp threads across the fabric from selvedge to selvedge.

Bias The bias grain runs 45° to the warp and weft of the fabric. Cutting garments on the bias creates a finished piece that will follow the contours of the body.

Selvedge The non-fraying, woven edges that run parallel to the warp grain is the selvedge.

CUTTING TRICKS

★ Accurate cutting makes or breaks your project – it's tricky to put a wrong cut right. Careful, smooth cuts around the pattern pieces are what you are trying to achieve, this will help the pieces fit together when you are making them up

★ Preferably use a rotary cutter to achieve neat, straight cuts. Always aim to cut on a flat, smooth surface, and ensure that the scissors or cutter you are using are sharp. If using scissors, use the full blade for the long, straight edges and work with smaller cuts around the curves

★ If you are right-handed, place your left hand on the pattern piece and fabric to hold it securely. Holding the scissor blades at right-angles to the fabric, begin cutting cleanly around each section. Reverse this if left-handed

★ Invest in a cutting mat and keep it clean and flat when not in use

★ Keep fabric scissors sharp and use them for just fabric

★ Iron your fabric before pinning your templates to it

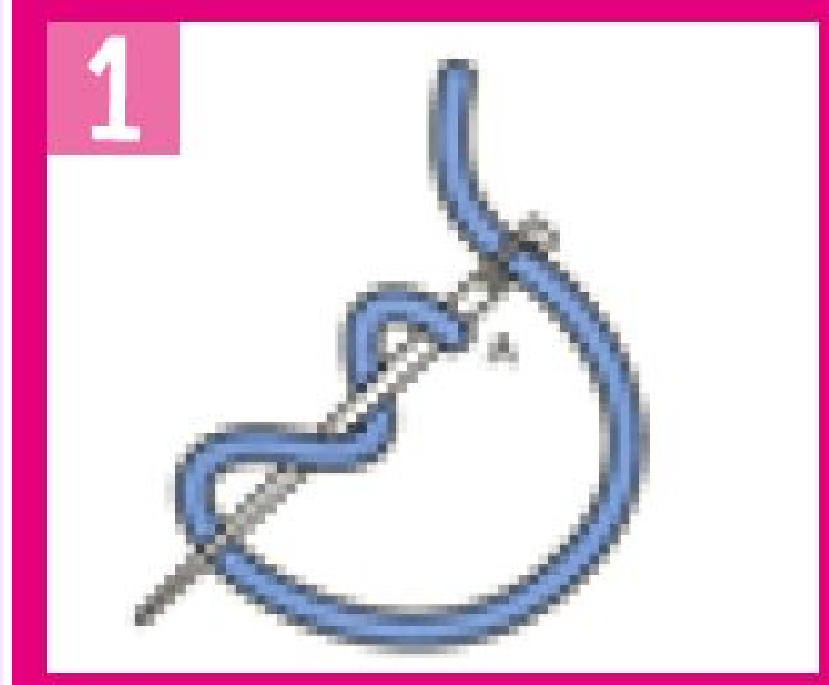
★ Once you've cut out all your template pieces, keep them safely together in a project bag or zip lock bag

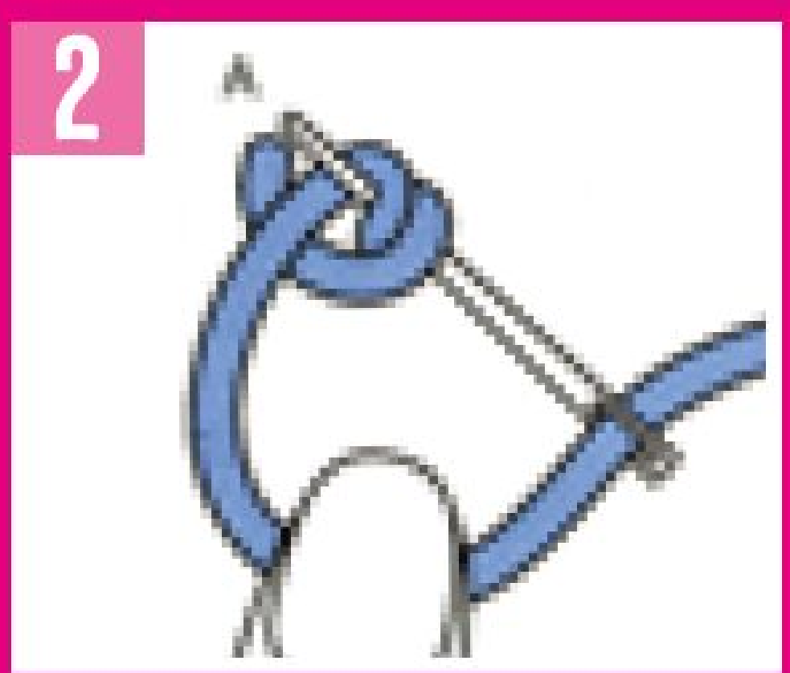
FRENCH KNOTS

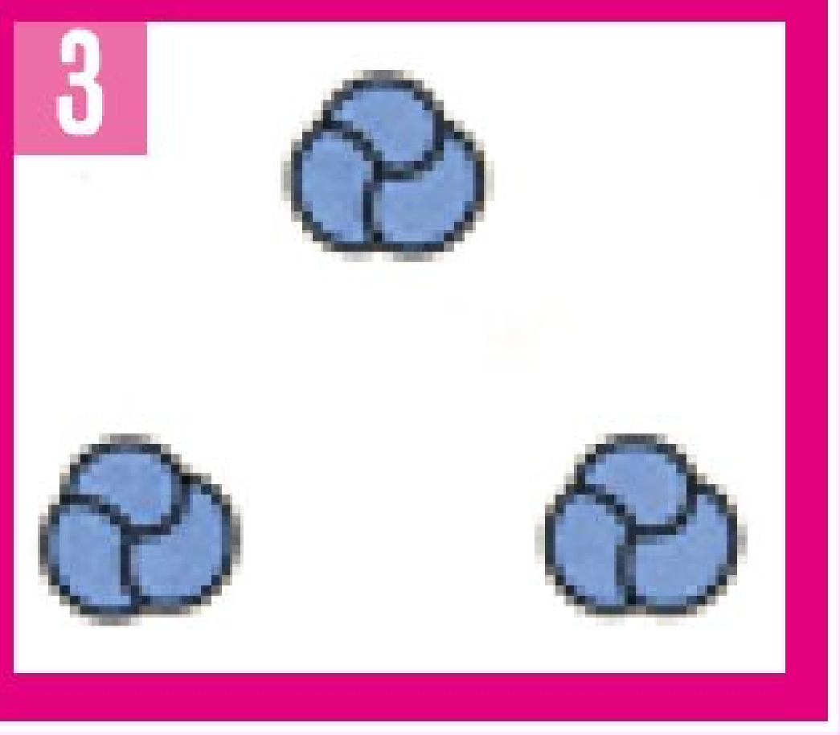
1 Bring the needle through to the RS of the fabric where you want to position the knot. Wrap the thread two or three times around the needle.

2 Hold the thread close to the surface of the fabric, then pull it tight and re-insert the needle into the fabric close to where it emerged. Keeping the tension on the wrapped thread, pull the needle through to the back of the work; the knot formed should sit on the fabric surface.

3 Once you have a small knot on the surface, take the needle back up through the fabric at the position of the next knot and repeat.







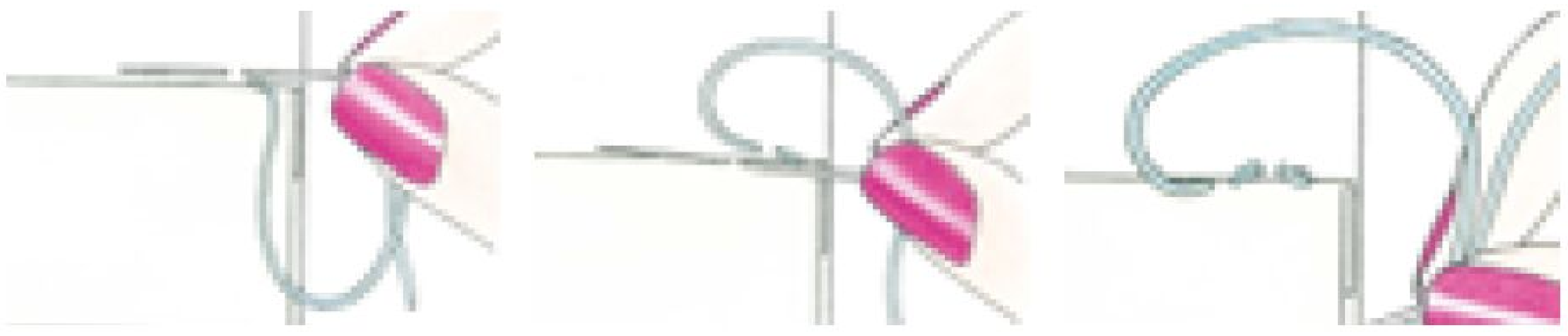
SLIP STITCH

Working on the fold in the fabric, secure the thread with a double stitch.

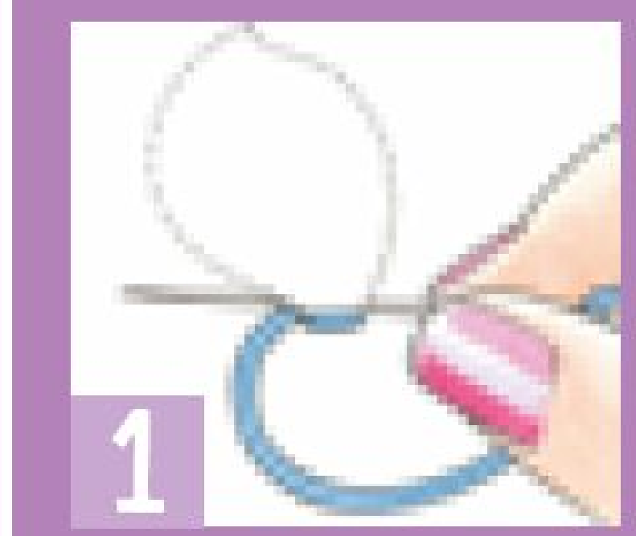
1 Pick up two threads of the fabric with the needle tip, then slip the needle through the fold of the hem. Bring the needle out 5mm along

2 Pick up two more threads of fabric before returning through the fold of the hem

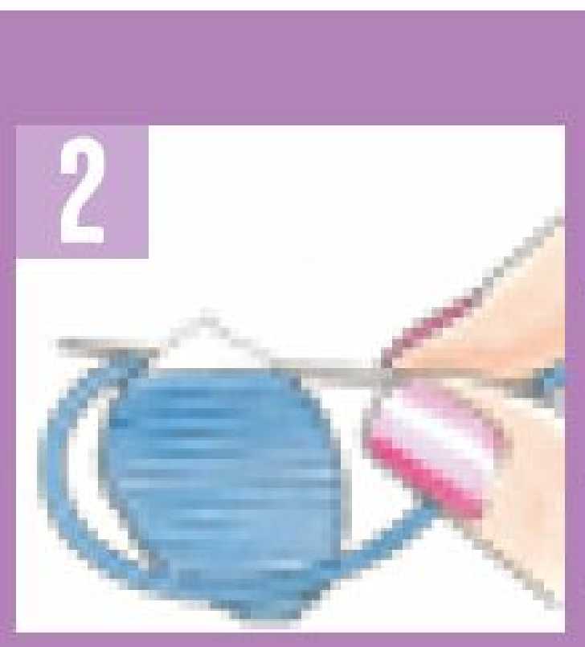
3 Pull the thread lightly as you work to tighten the stitches, being careful not to distort the fabric which makes the stitches visible



SATIN STITCH

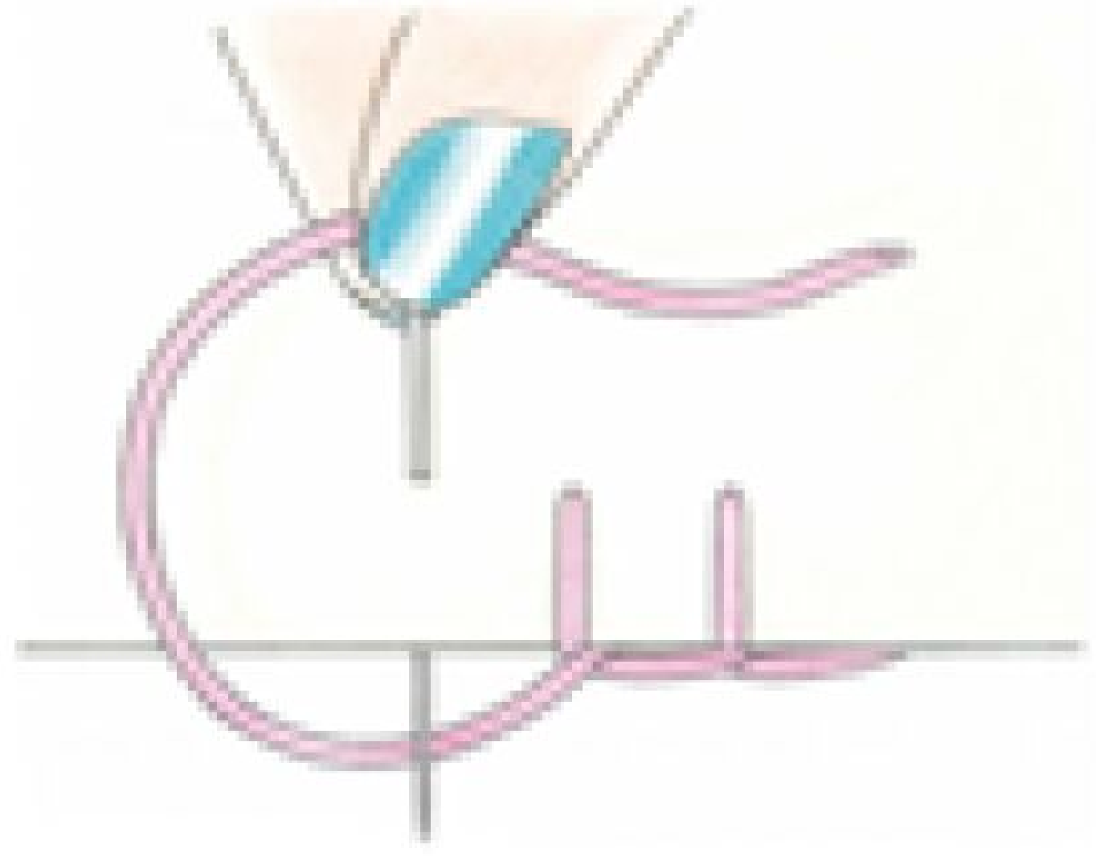


1 Bring the needle up from the underside of the fabric on the design line, take it to the outline on the opposite side to form a long, straight stitch.

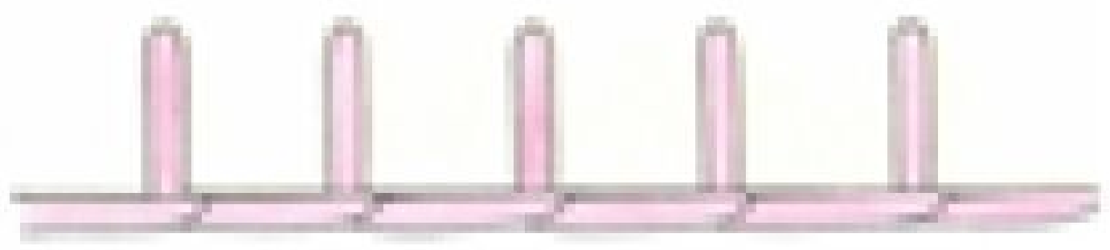


2 Take the needle down next to the end of the first stitch and bring it back through at the start of the previous stitch. Repeat to fill in the design leaving no gaps.

BLANKET STITCH

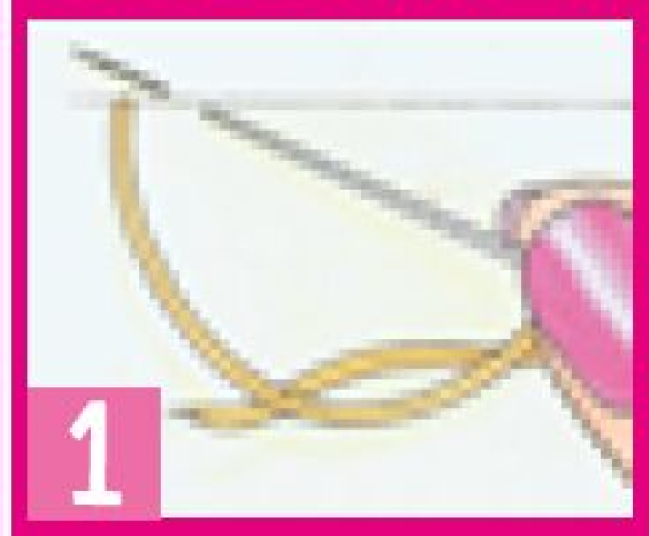


1 Secure the thread and working along the edge, bring the needle to the surface of the fabric. Take the needle through from the back of the fabric to the surface on the stitching line. Loop the end of the thread under the needle and pull through to adjust so that the stitch lies along the edge of the fabric.

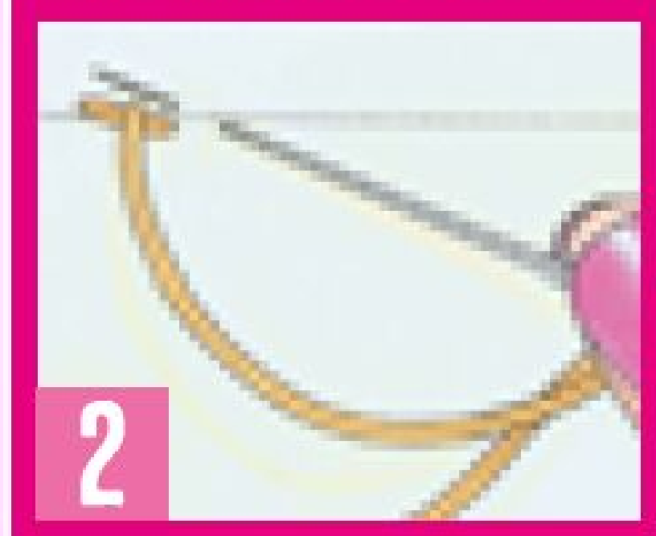


2 Repeat to create evenly spaced stitches along the edge. Keep an even tension to avoid distorting the fabric.

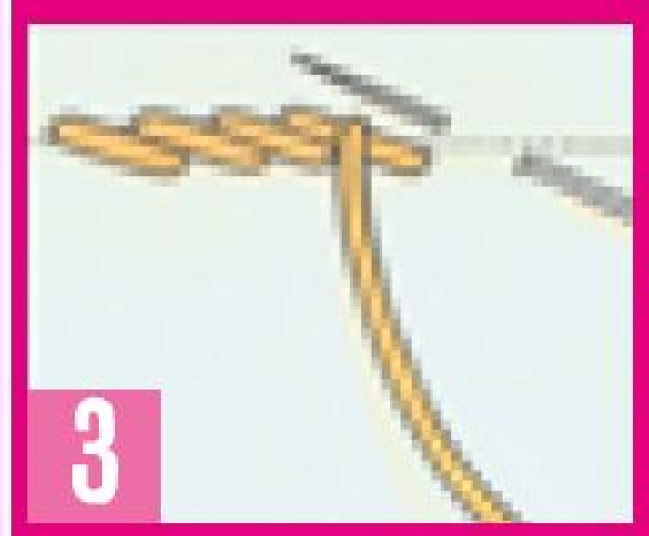
STEM STITCH



1 Working from left to right, bring the needle up through the start of your line, then move a stitch width to the right. Then pull it up halfway back along the previous stitch.



2 Make another stitch to the right of the first, bringing the needle back up halfway through and slightly above the stitch as before – the stitches should look slightly slanted.



3 Keep stitching a length to the right, then back up through the halfway point of the previous stitch keeping the thread coming out on the same side to form a line of even stitches.

NEEDLE CHOICE

Sewing machine needles are stamped on the curved side of the needle shank with metric and imperial sizes followed by relevant needle mark codes. Here are some of the most widely used ones you are likely to see:

★ Your machine will likely come with universal point needles, which have a slightly rounded point. They can be used for sewing most woven or knit fabrics

★ Sharp point (regular) needles are ideal for woven fabrics like cotton and linen, as they make even stitches and will minimise puckering

★ Ballpoint needles have rounded points and are designed especially to sew knit and stretch fabrics. The tip is more rounded than the universal needle and is designed to push fabric fibres apart rather than cutting them, preventing laddering after stitching

★ Embroidery needles have a larger eye for thicker embroidery threads, and are designed to prevent threads from breaking

★ Quilting needles have tapered points to stitch through several layers of fabric without damaging it

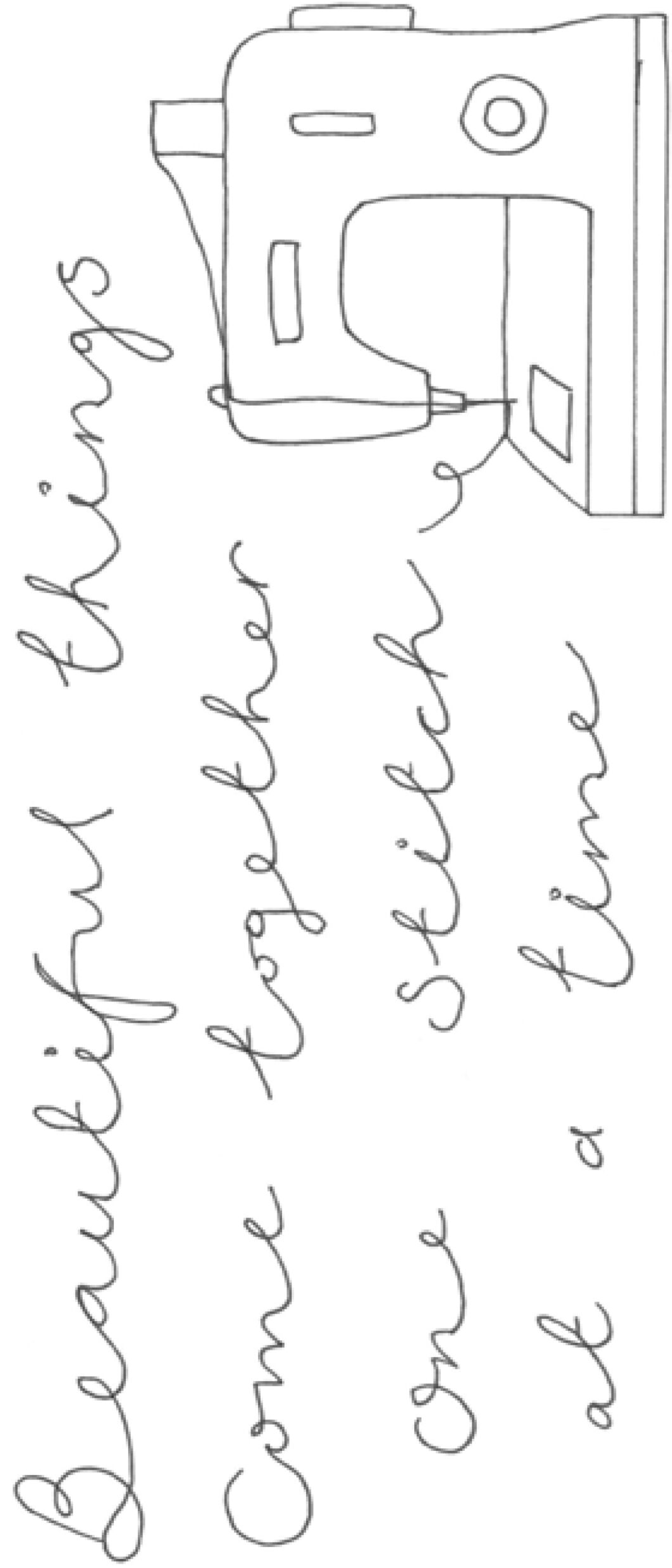
★ Topstitching needles have an extra large eye and a deeper groove for heavier topstitching and doubled threads

★ Wedge point needles are for sewing leather and vinyl as they easily pierce the fabrics and create a hole that will close back up

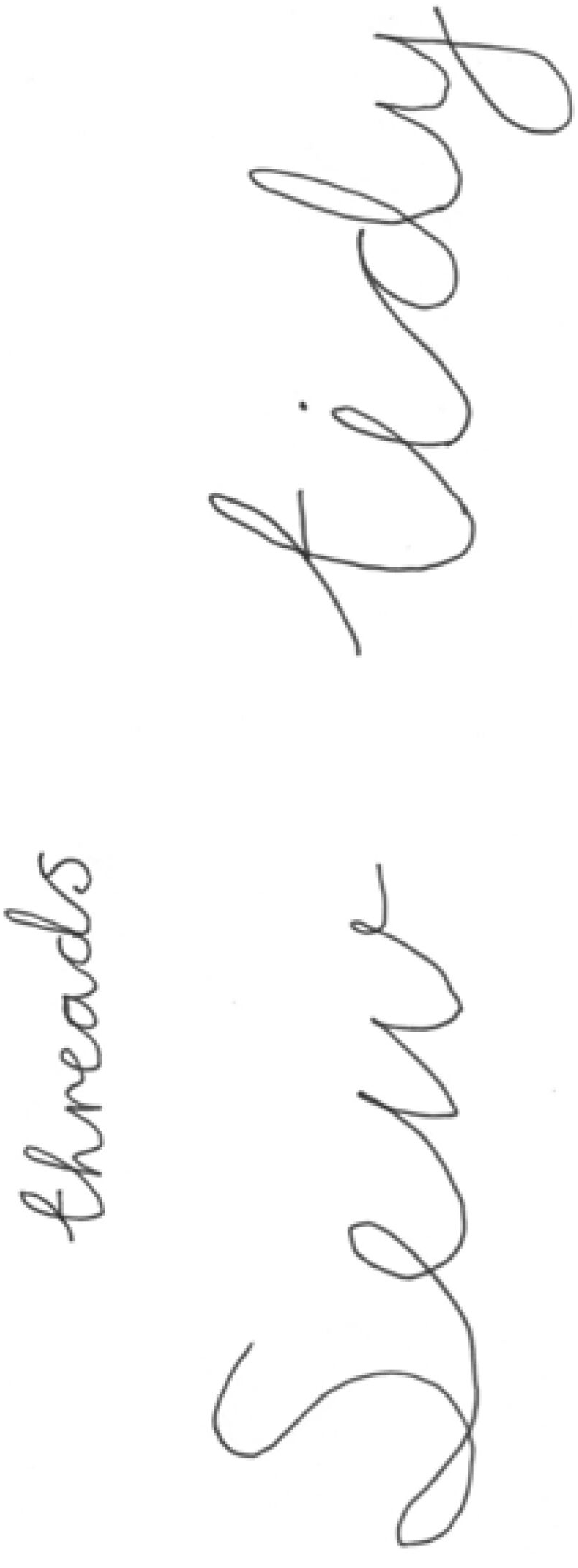
★ Jean needles are well-suited to denim, heavy twill, workwear and other densely woven fabrics, such as canvas and linens. These needles have an extremely sharp point and a stiffer shank to make light work of stitching denser fabric types

FOR OTHER TEMPLATES
SEE ISSUE 29 AT LETSKNIT.CO.UK

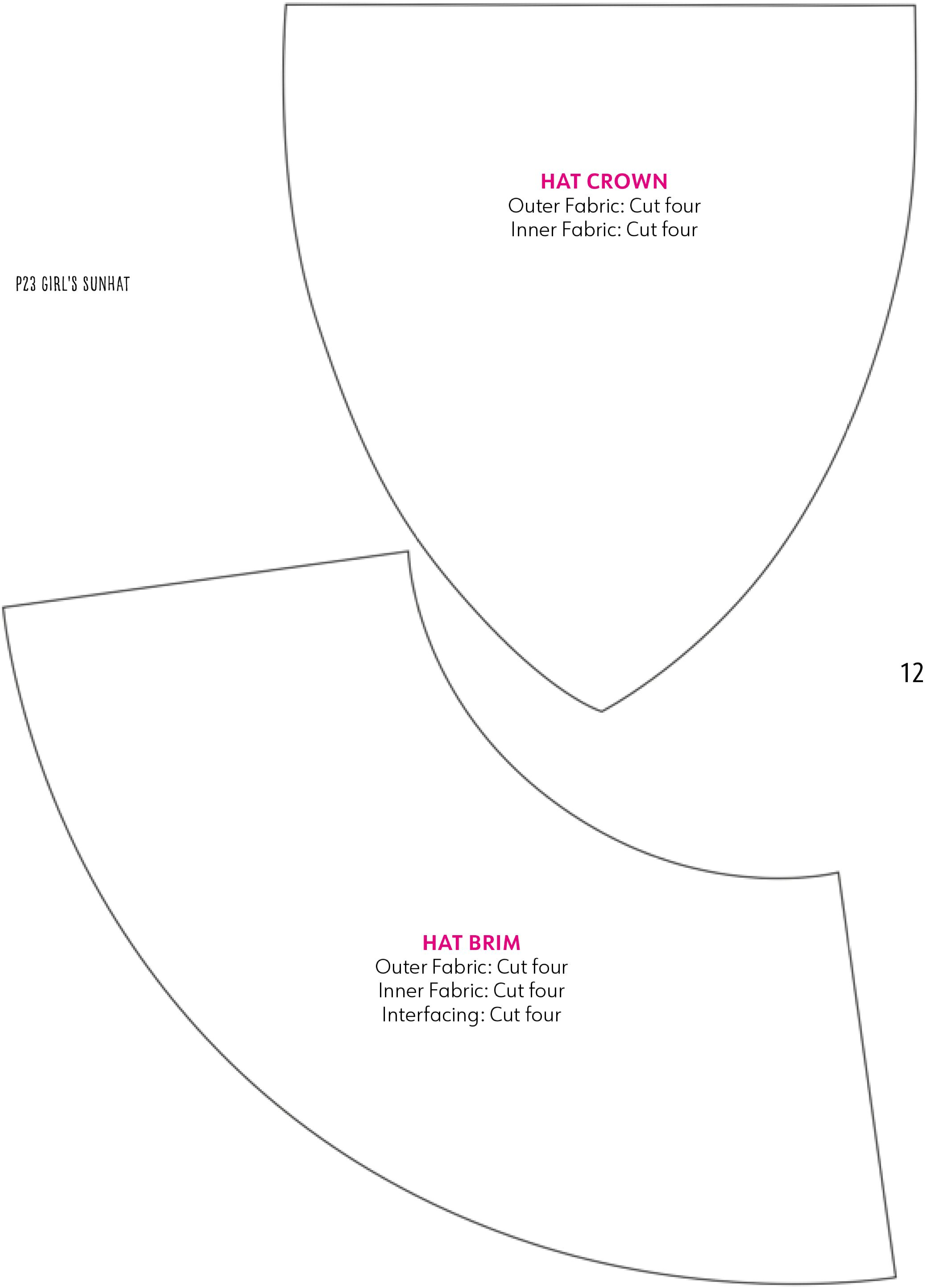
P8-9 READING CUSHION


Beautiful things
Come together
One stitch
at a time

P38-39 MACHINE COVER


Sew tidy
threads

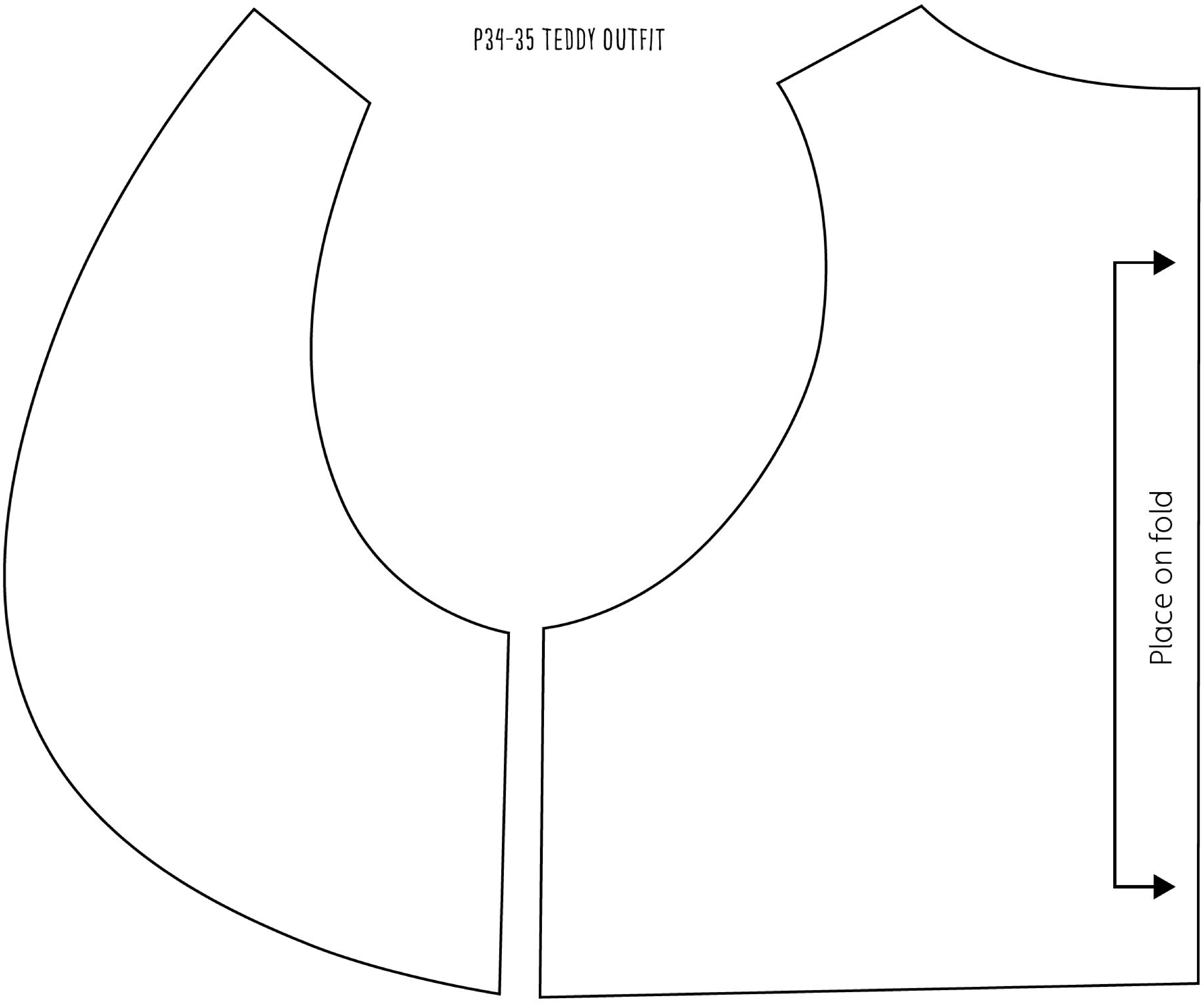
P23 GIRL'S SUNHAT

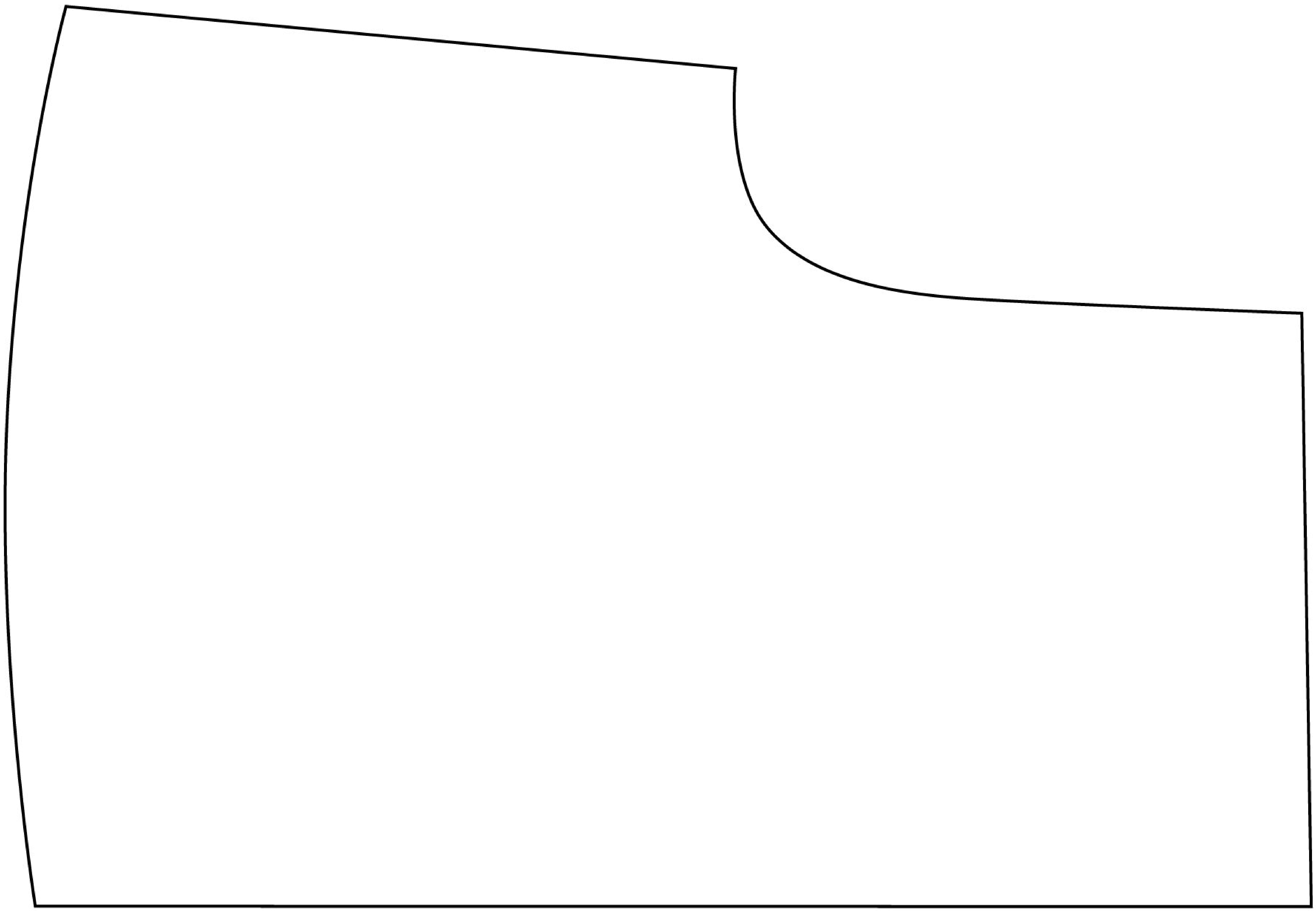


HAT CROWN
Outer Fabric: Cut four
Inner Fabric: Cut four

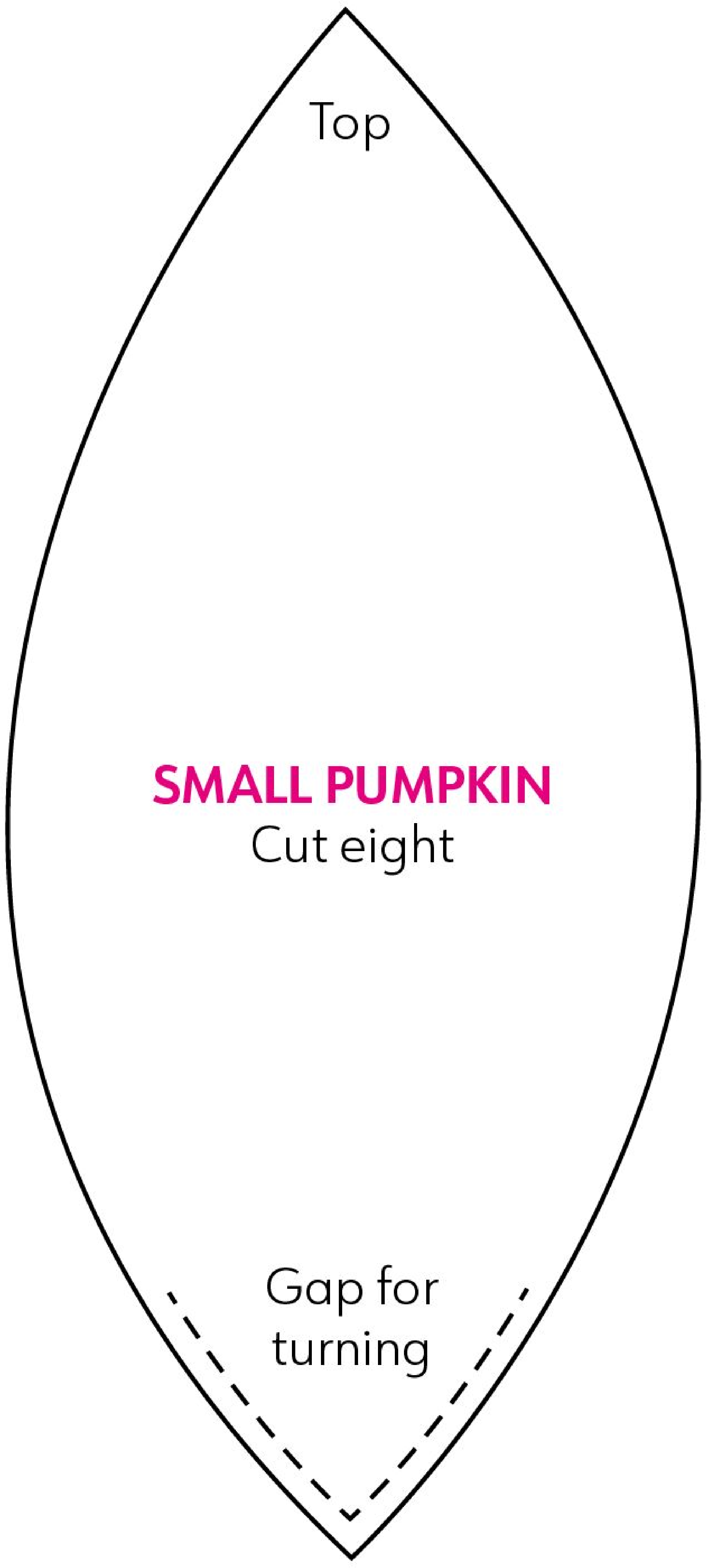
HAT BRIM
Outer Fabric: Cut four
Inner Fabric: Cut four
Interfacing: Cut four

P34-35 TEDDY OUTFIT


Place on fold

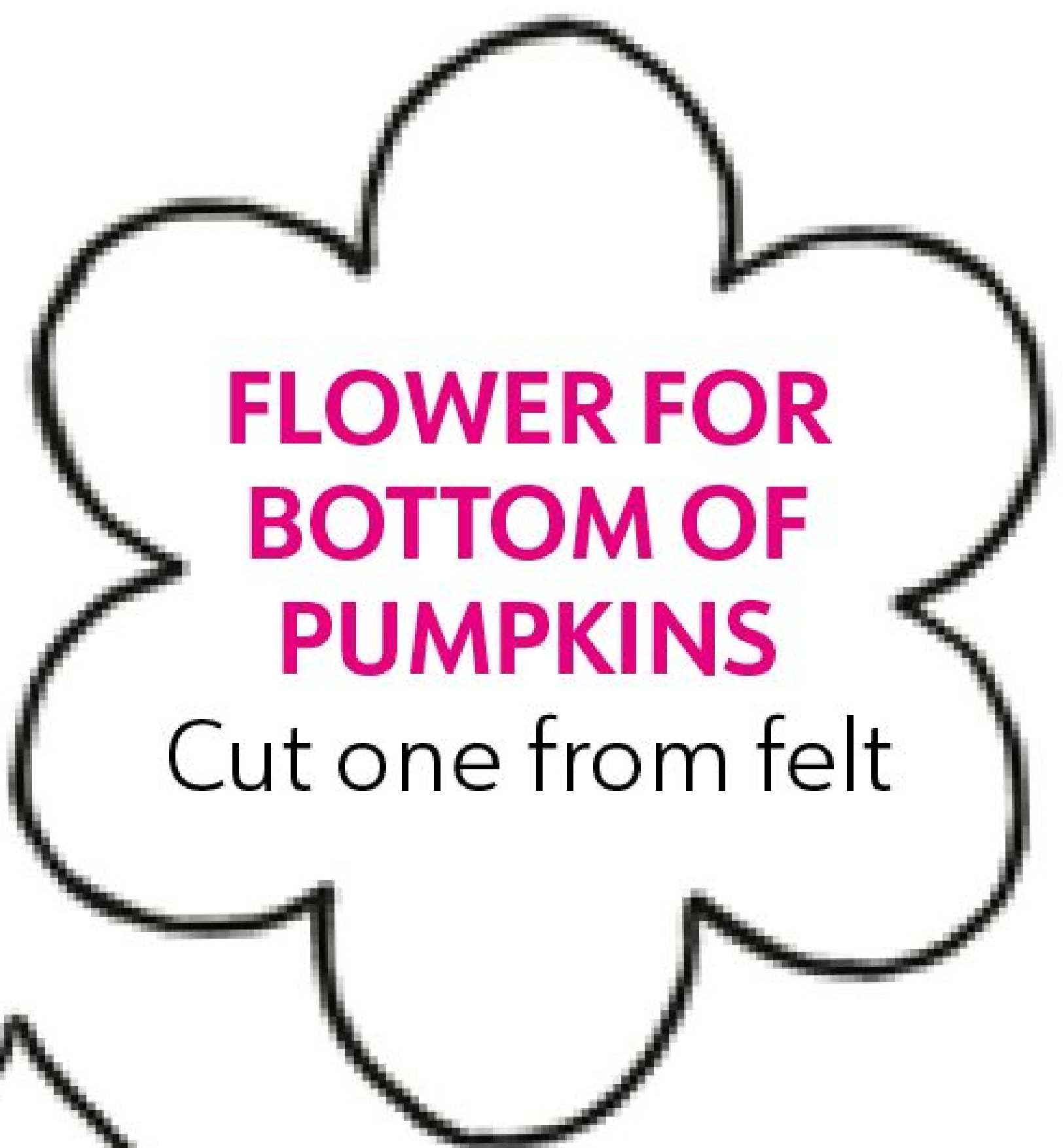


P42-43 PUMPKIN PINCUSHION

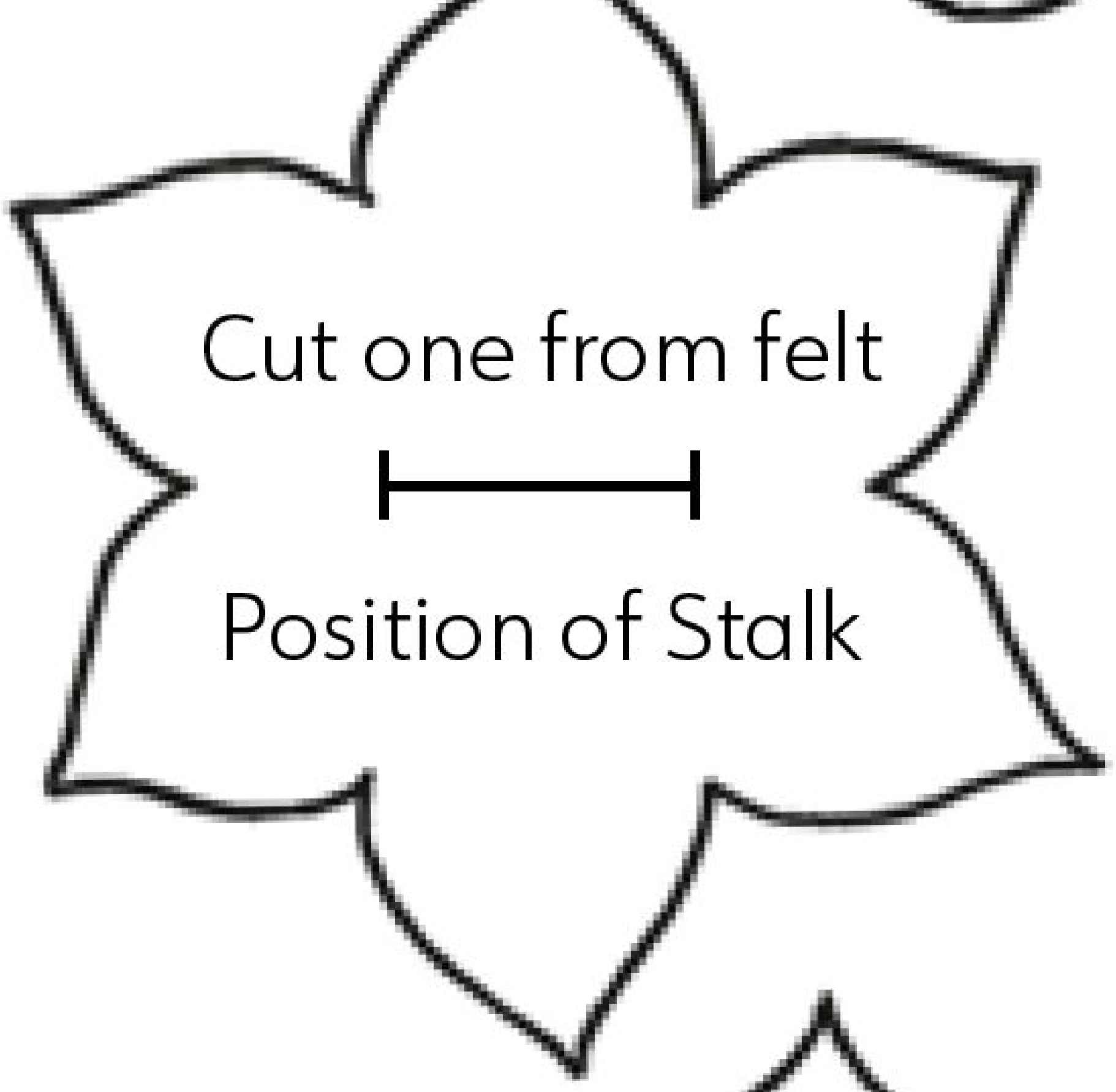

Top

SMALL PUMPKIN
Cut eight

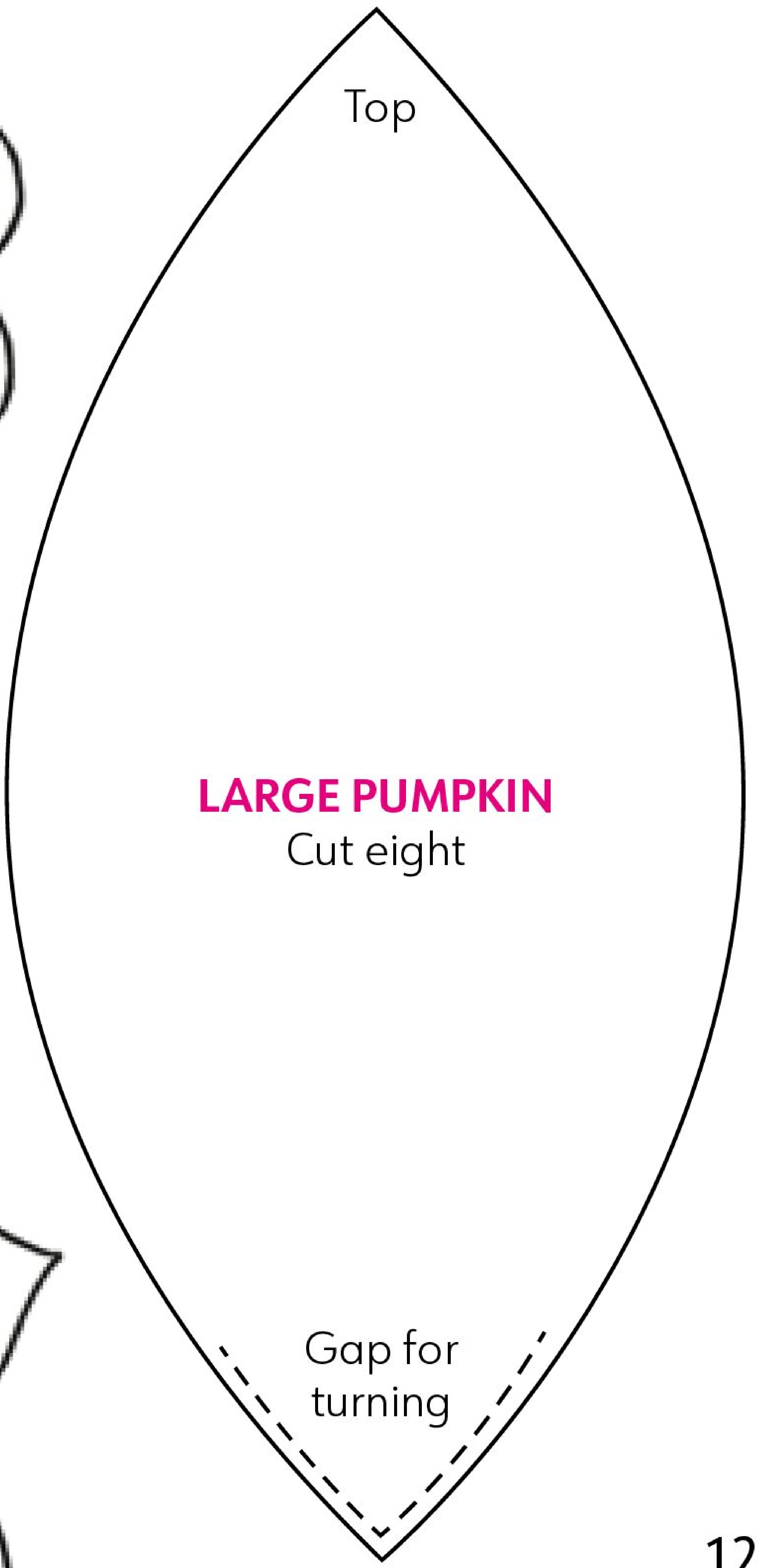
Gap for turning


FLOWER FOR BOTTOM OF PUMPKINS
Cut one from felt

SMALL LEAVES

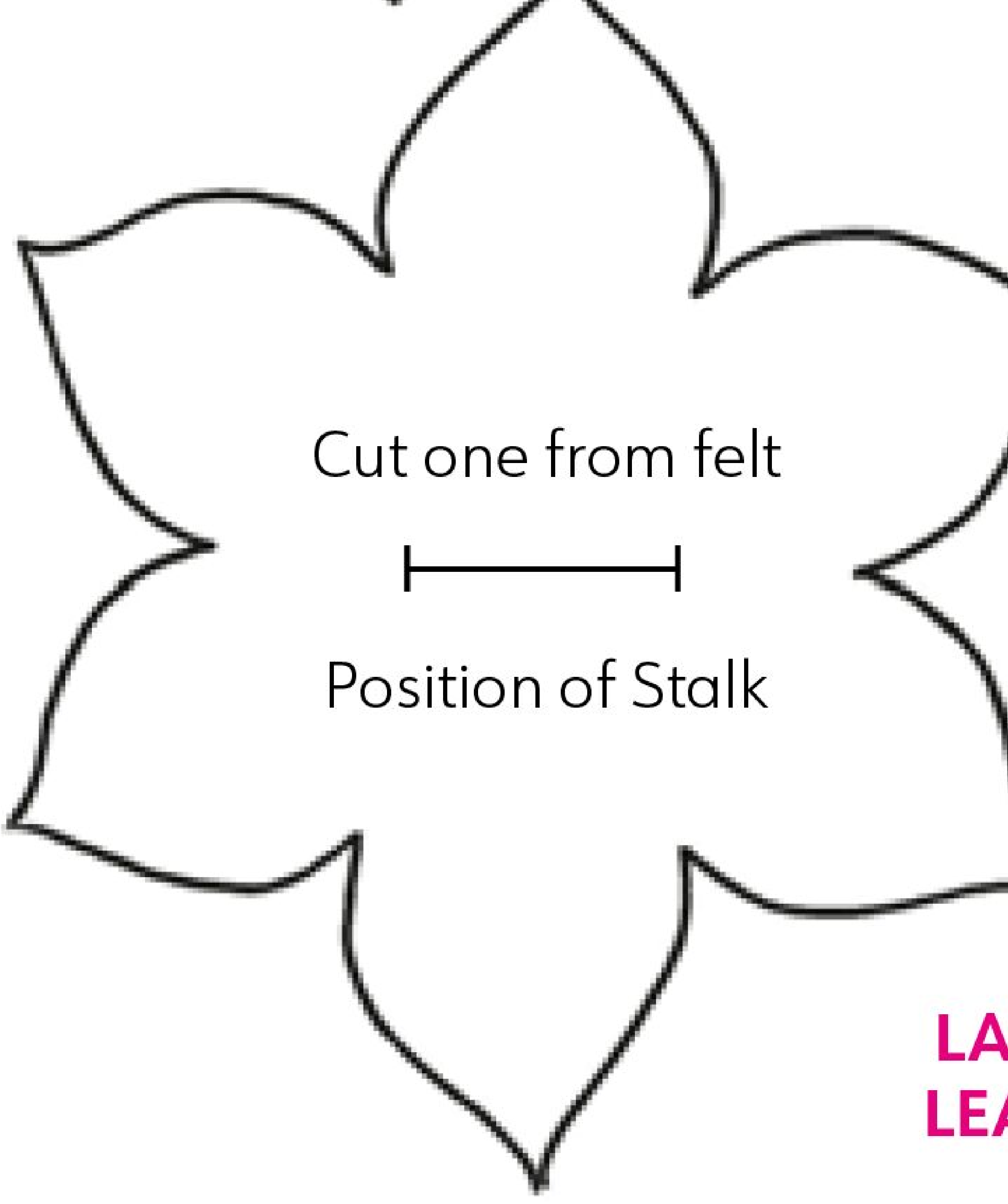

Cut one from felt

Position of Stalk


Top

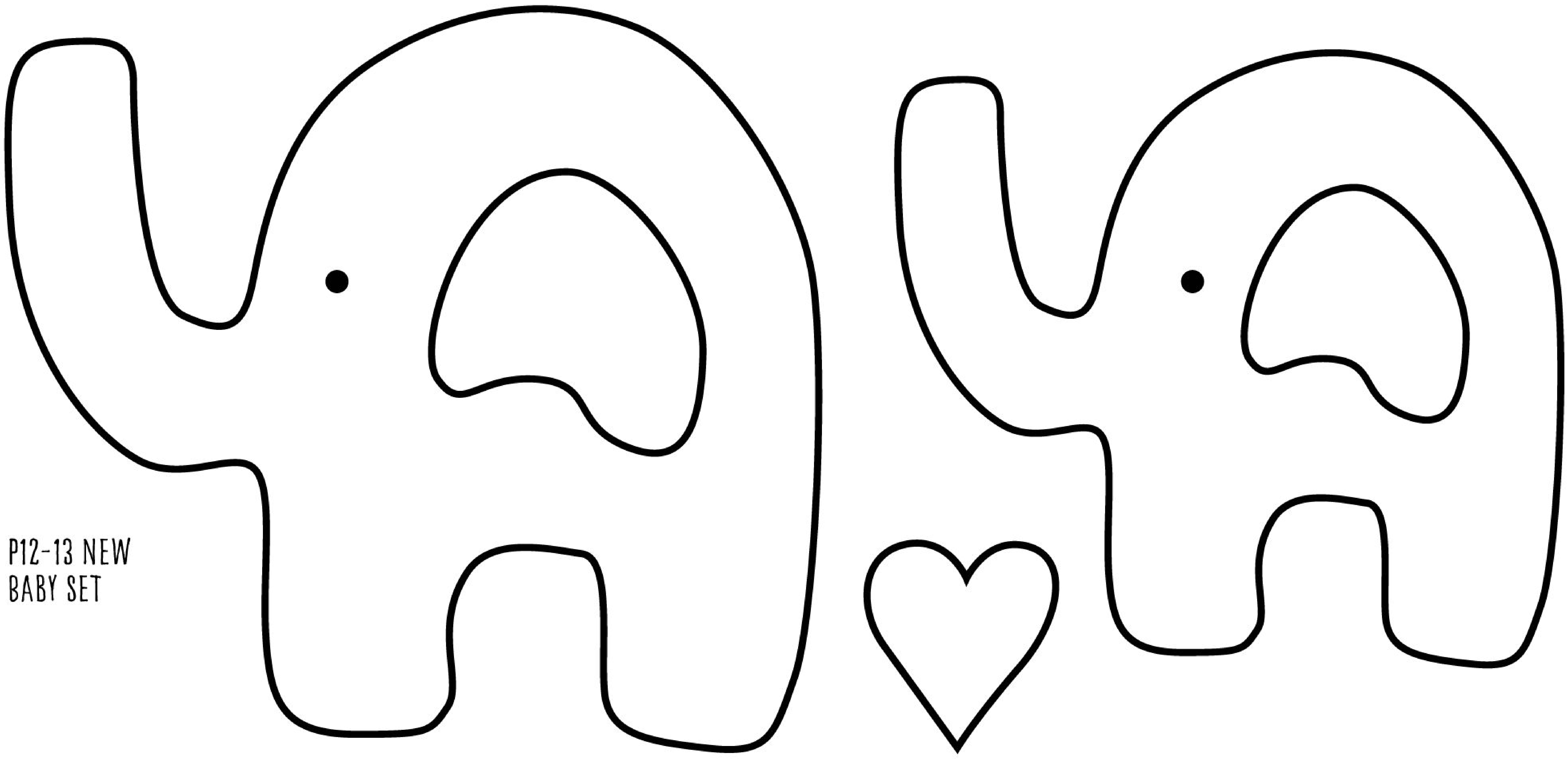
LARGE PUMPKIN
Cut eight

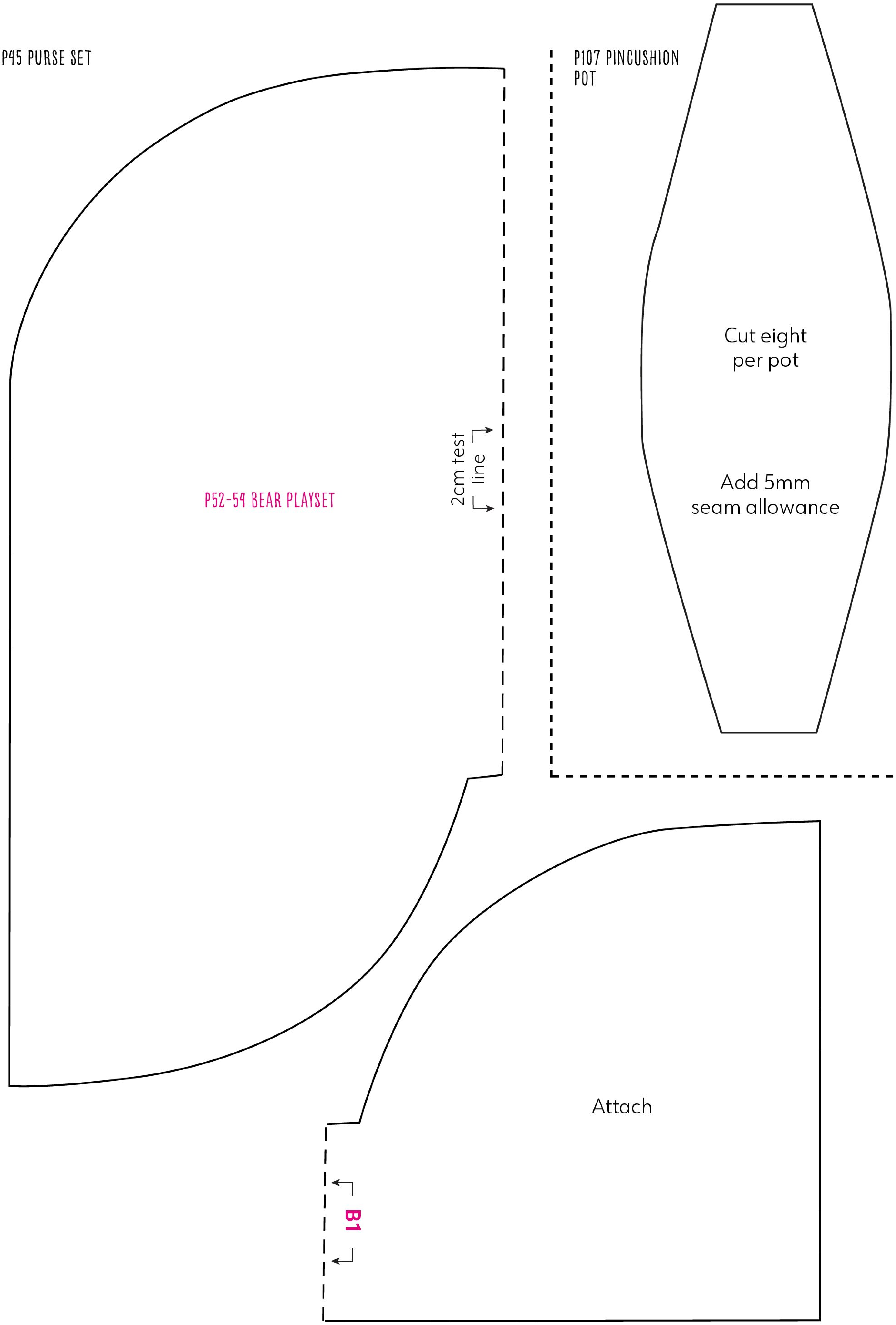
Gap for turning

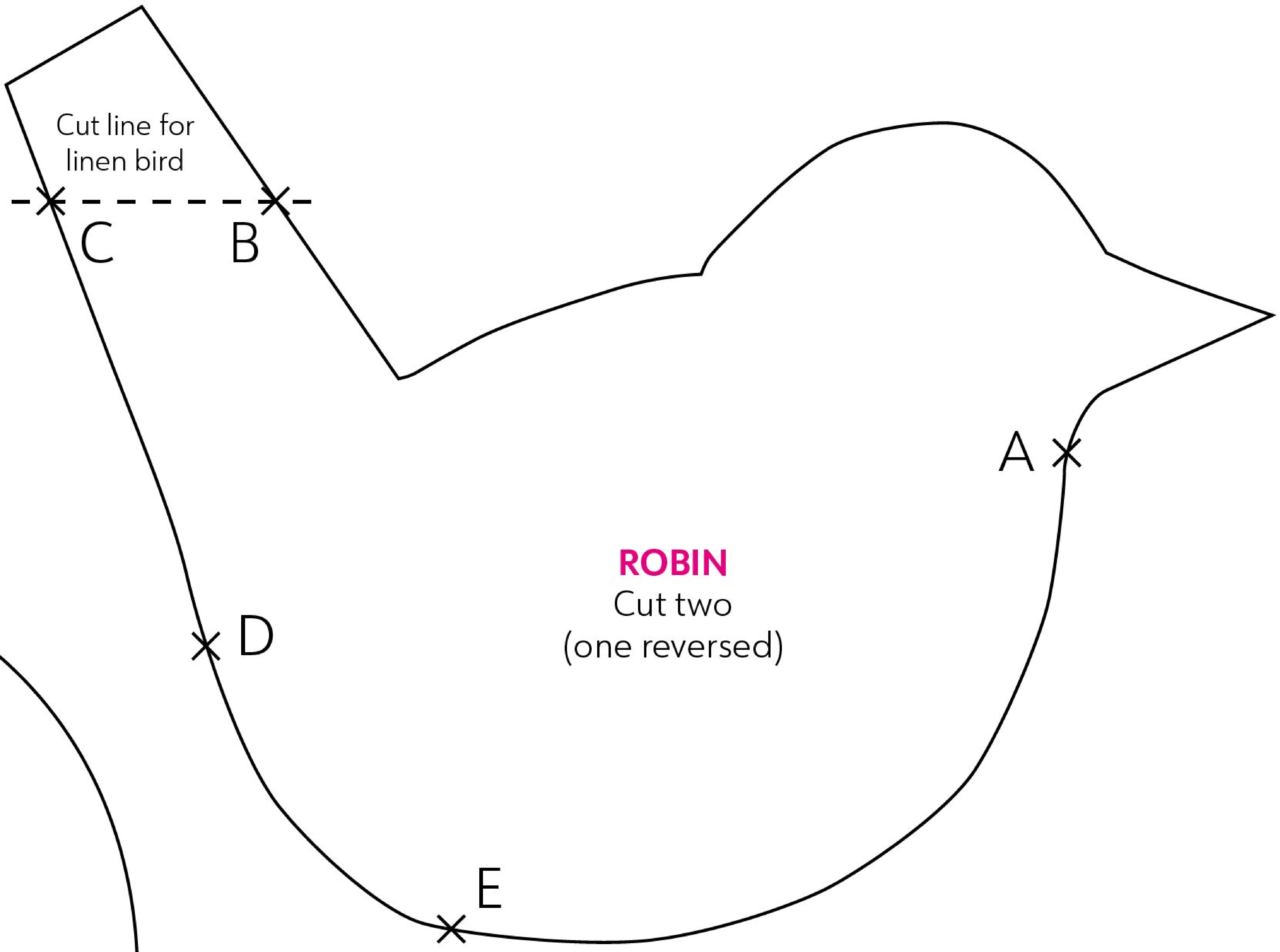

Cut one from felt

Position of Stalk

LARGE LEAVES

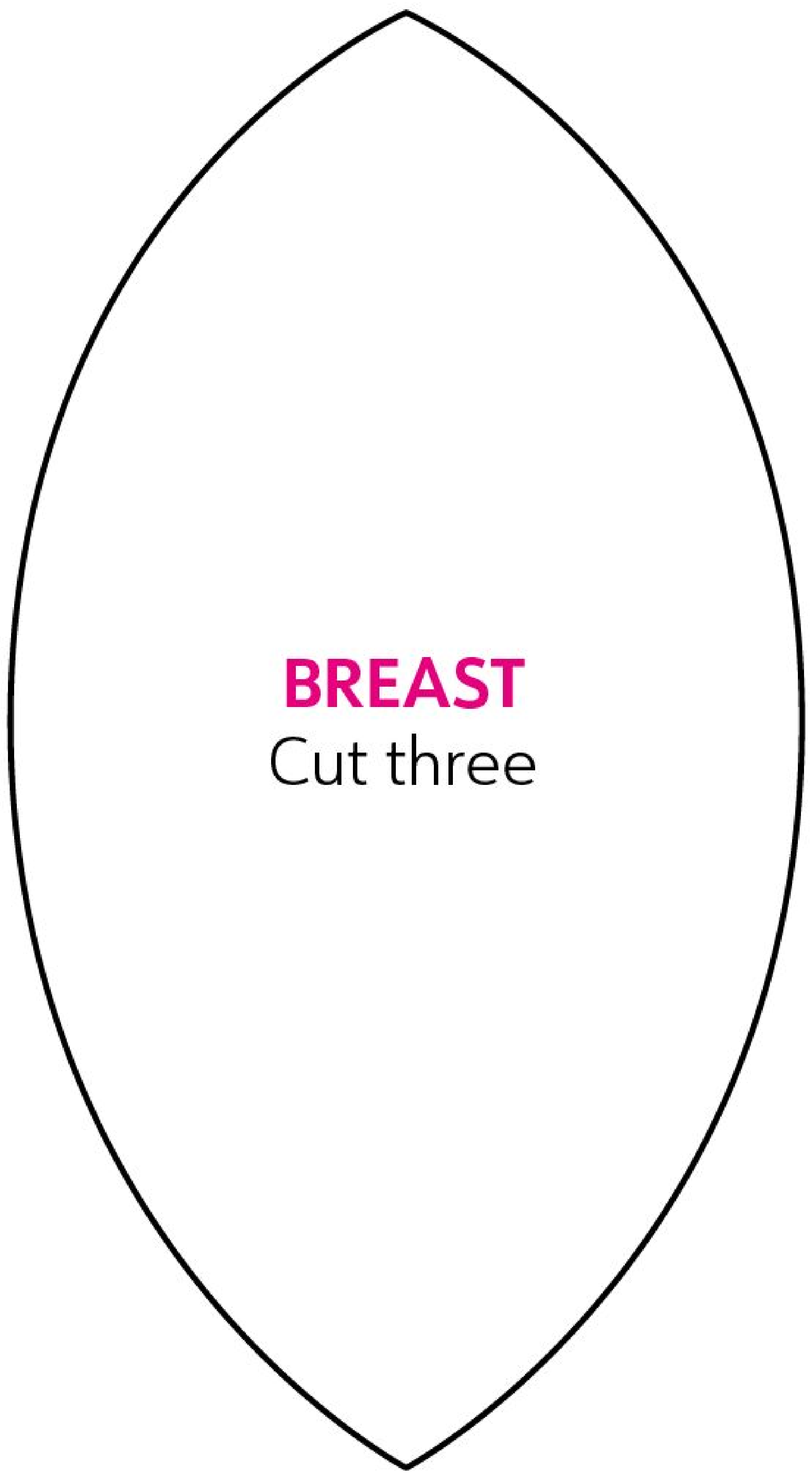

P12-13 NEW BABY SET


P45 PURSE SET
P107 PINCUSHION POT
Cut eight per pot
Add 5mm seam allowance
P52-54 BEAR PLAYSET
2cm test line
Attach
B1

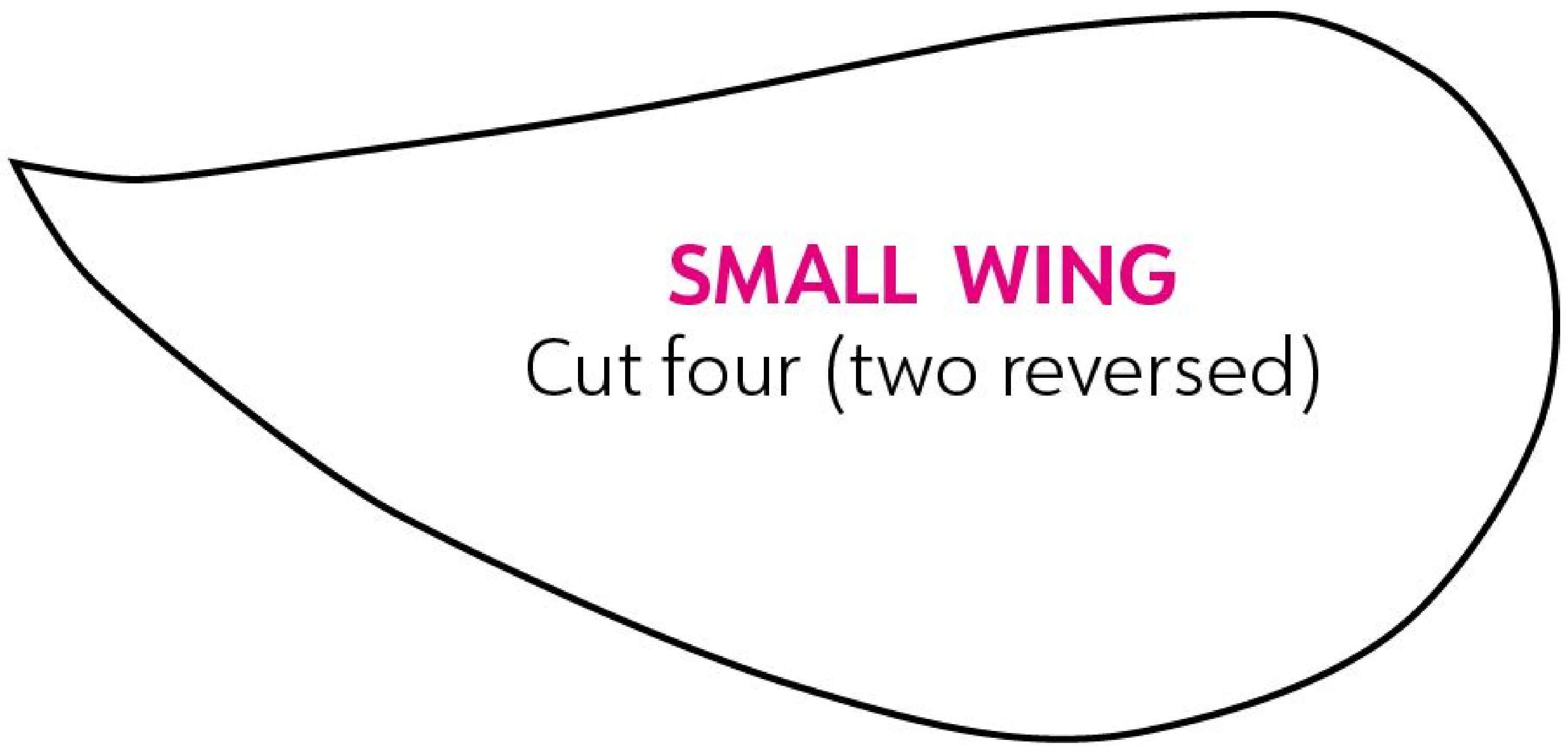


Cut line for linen bird

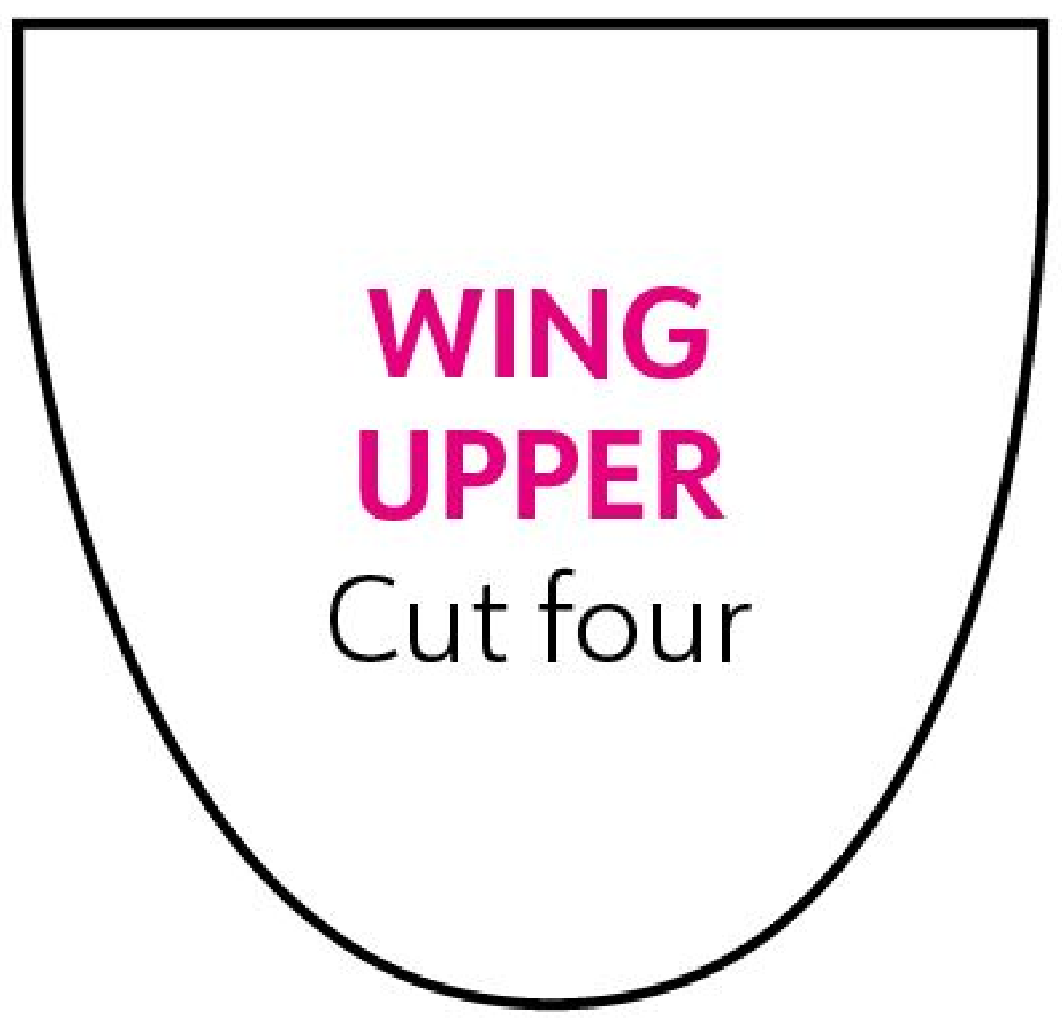
ROBIN
Cut two
(one reversed)



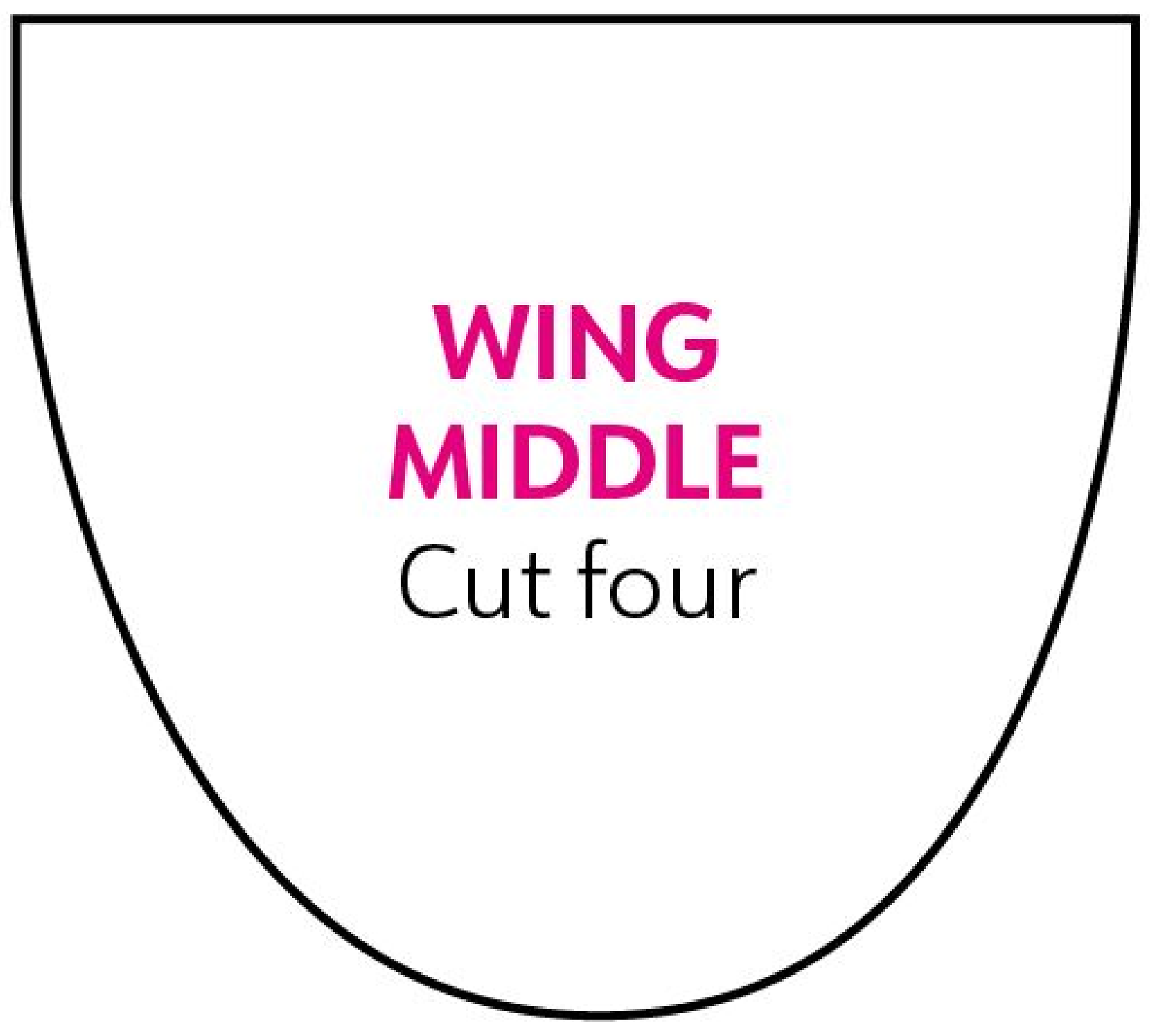
BREAST
Cut three



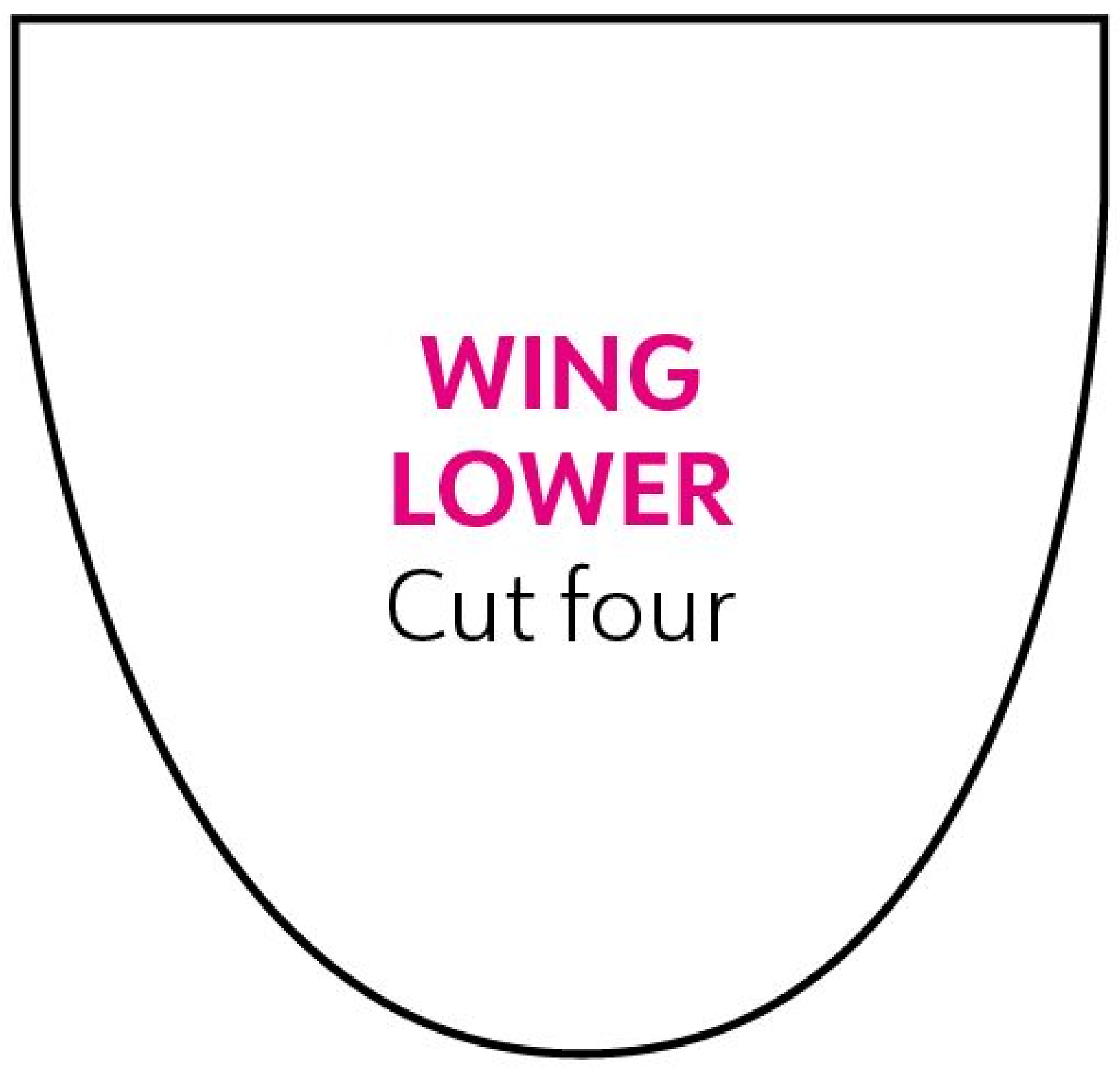
SMALL WING
Cut four (two reversed)



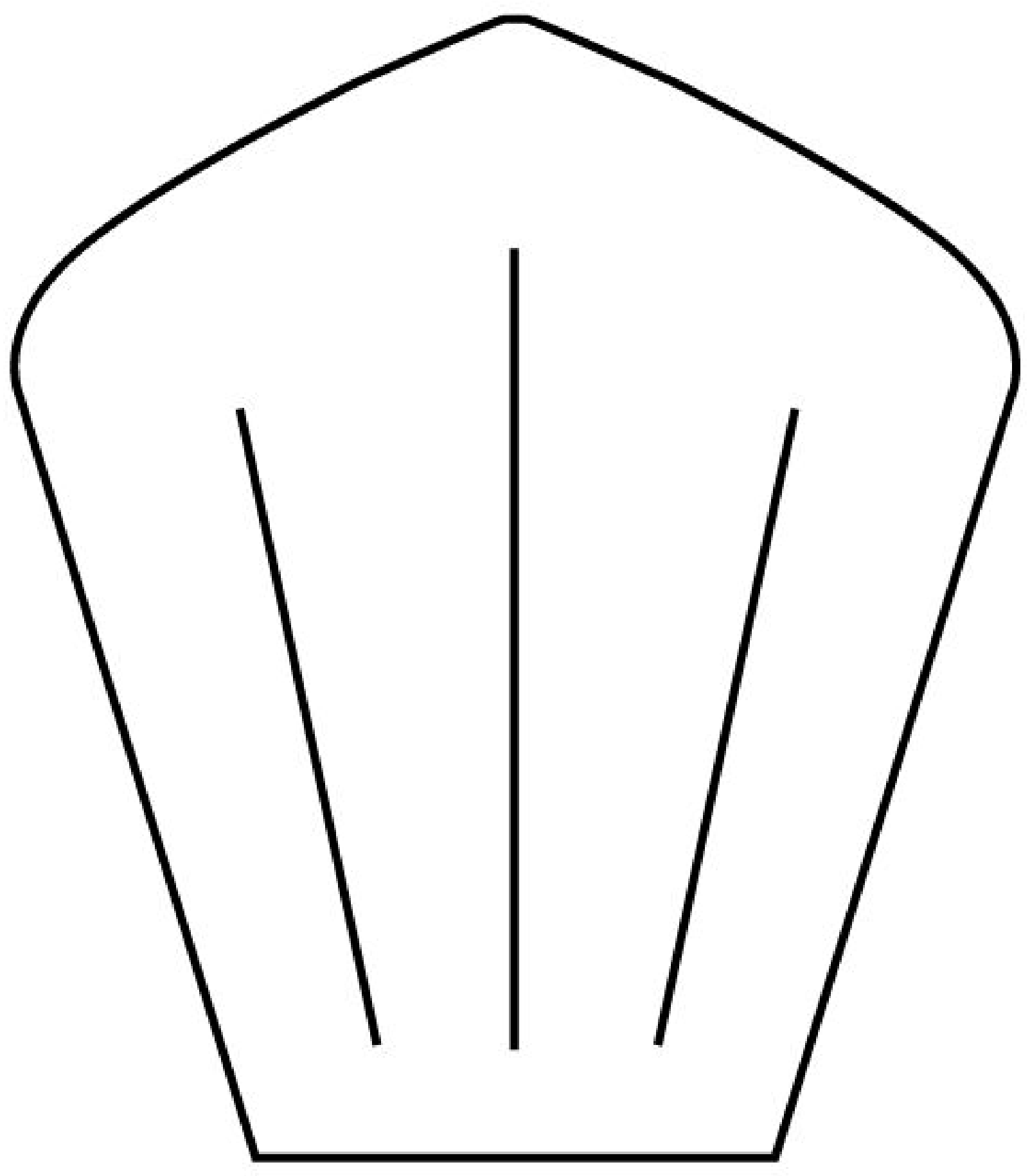
WING UPPER
Cut four



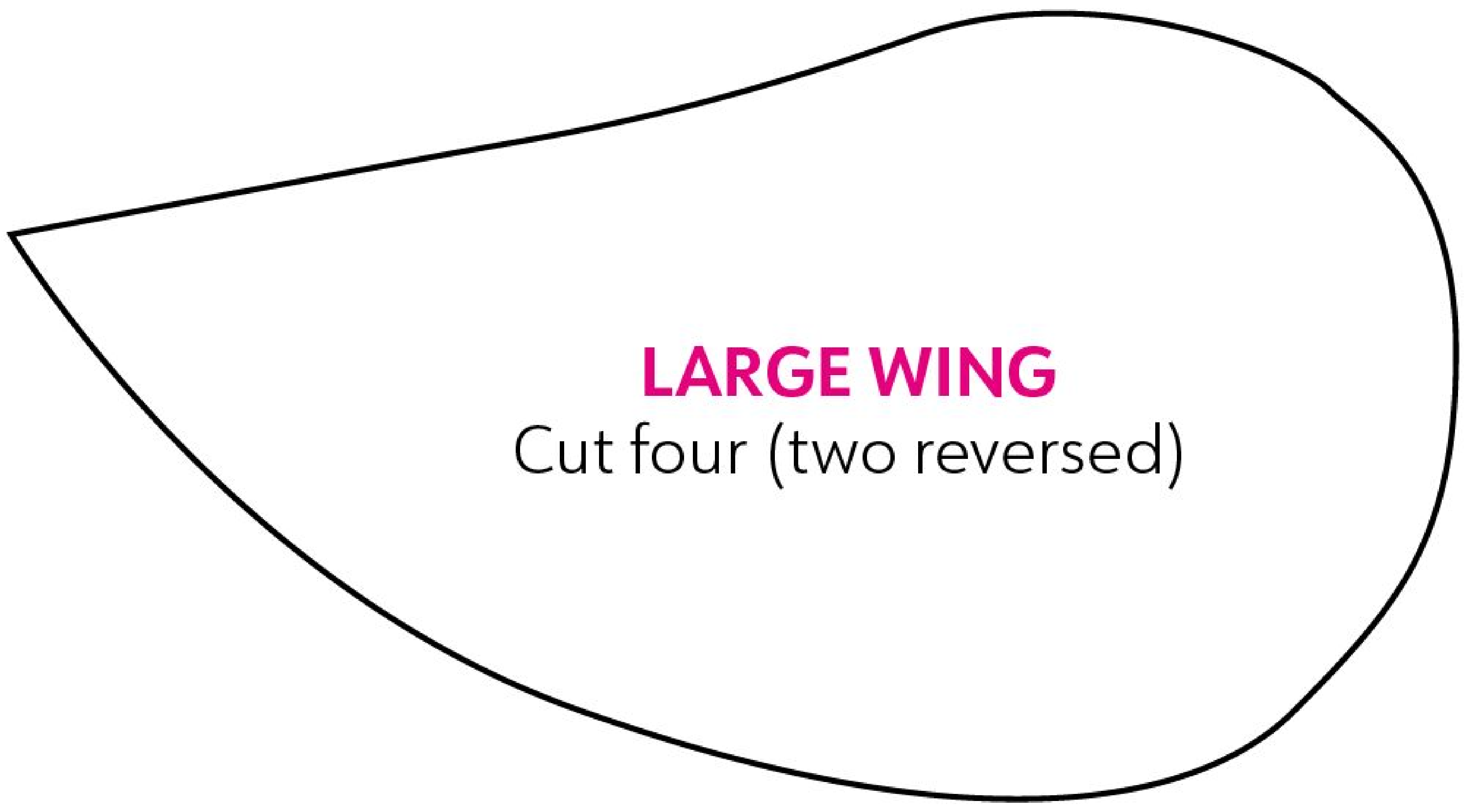
WING MIDDLE
Cut four



WING LOWER
Cut four



TAIL
Cut two

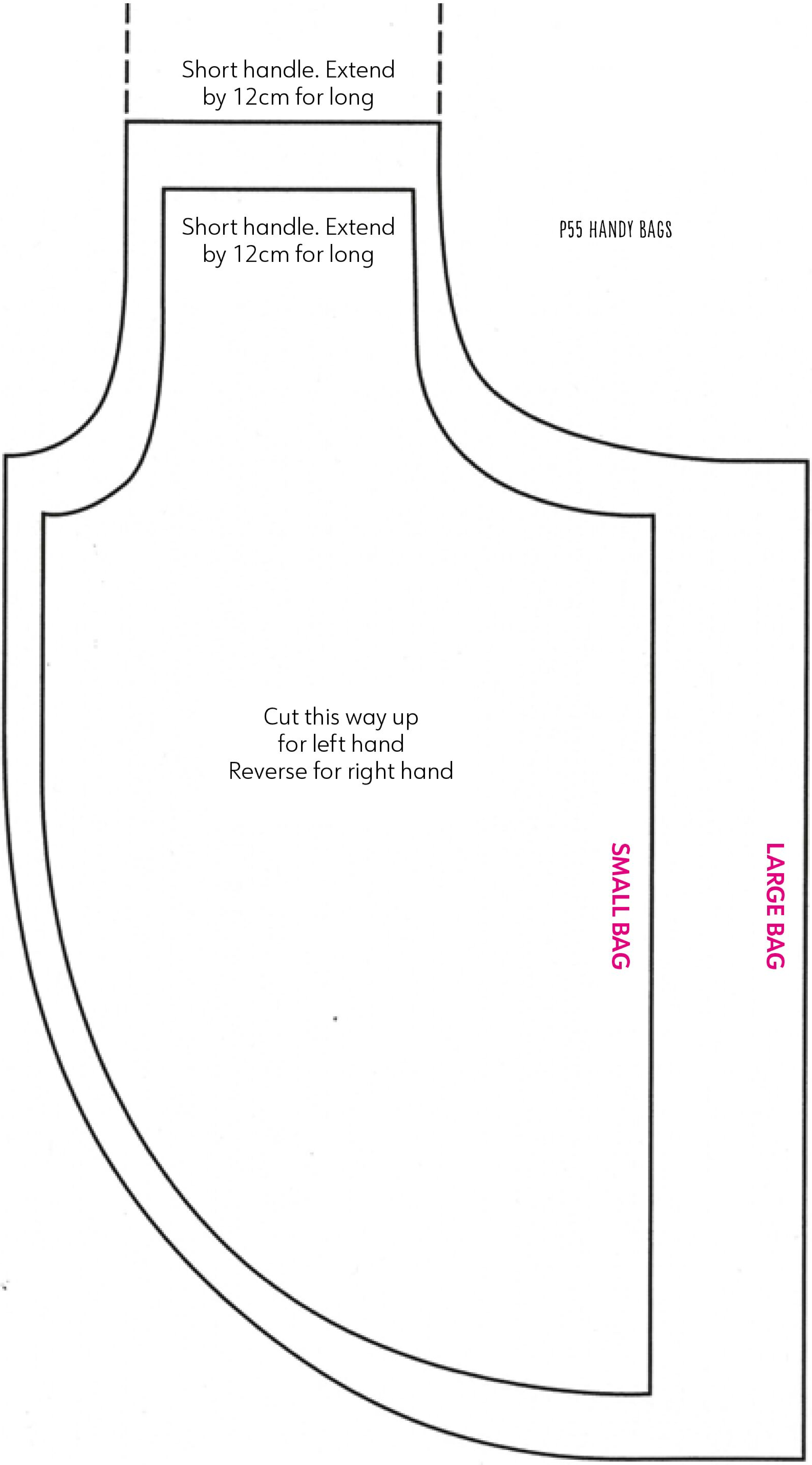


LARGE WING
Cut four (two reversed)

P50-51 LIONEL STITCHIE

HEAD
Cut two on fold
Fold
BIG PETAL
Cut 20
EYE
Cut two
from felt no seam allowance
NOSE
SMALL PETAL
Cut 20
EAR
Cut four
ARMS
Cut four on fold
Fold
BODY
Cut two on fold
Fold
MUZZLE
Cut one
CHEST
Cut one

P55 HANDY BAGS

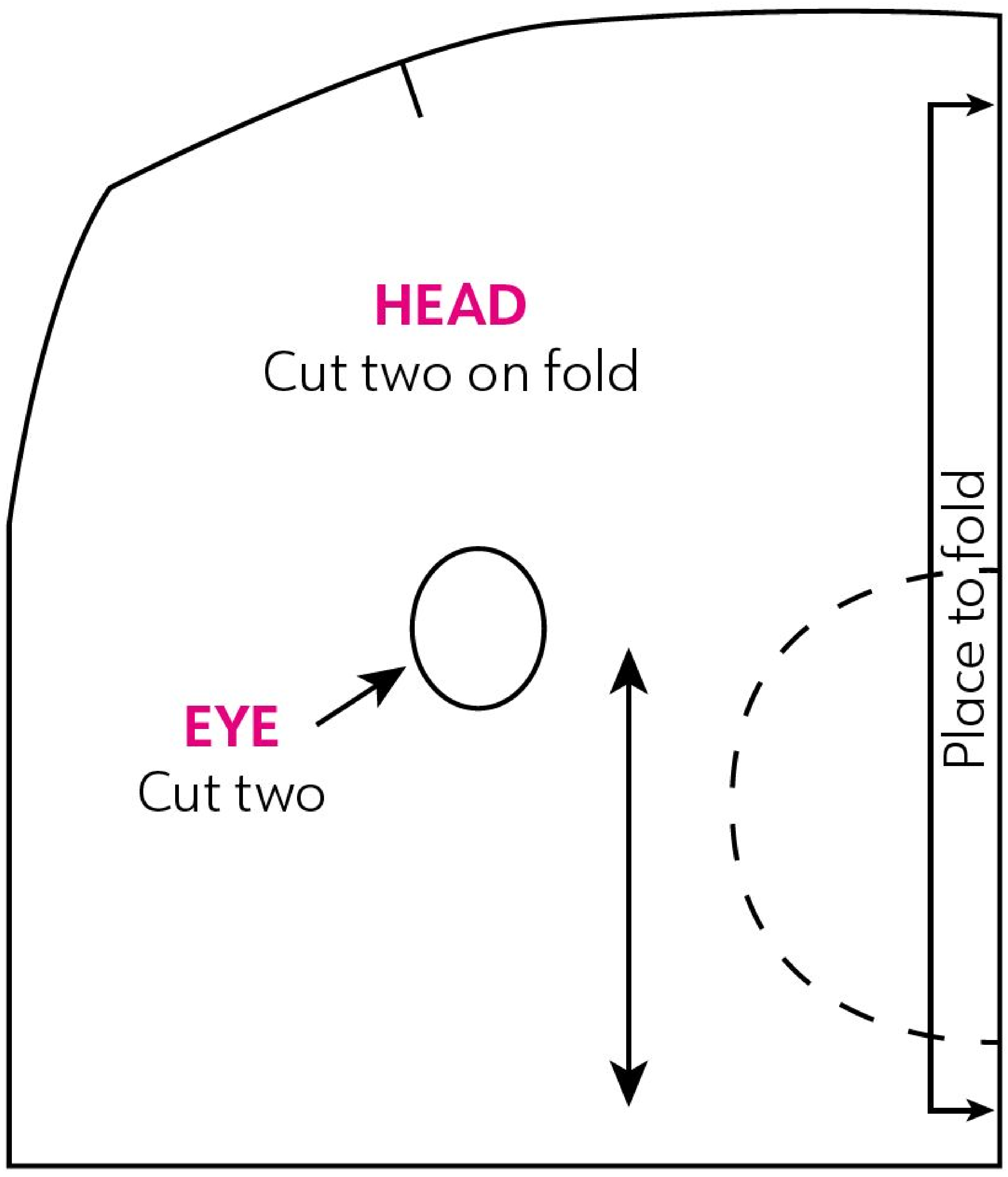

SMALL BAG
LARGE BAG

Short handle. Extend by 12cm for long

Short handle. Extend by 12cm for long

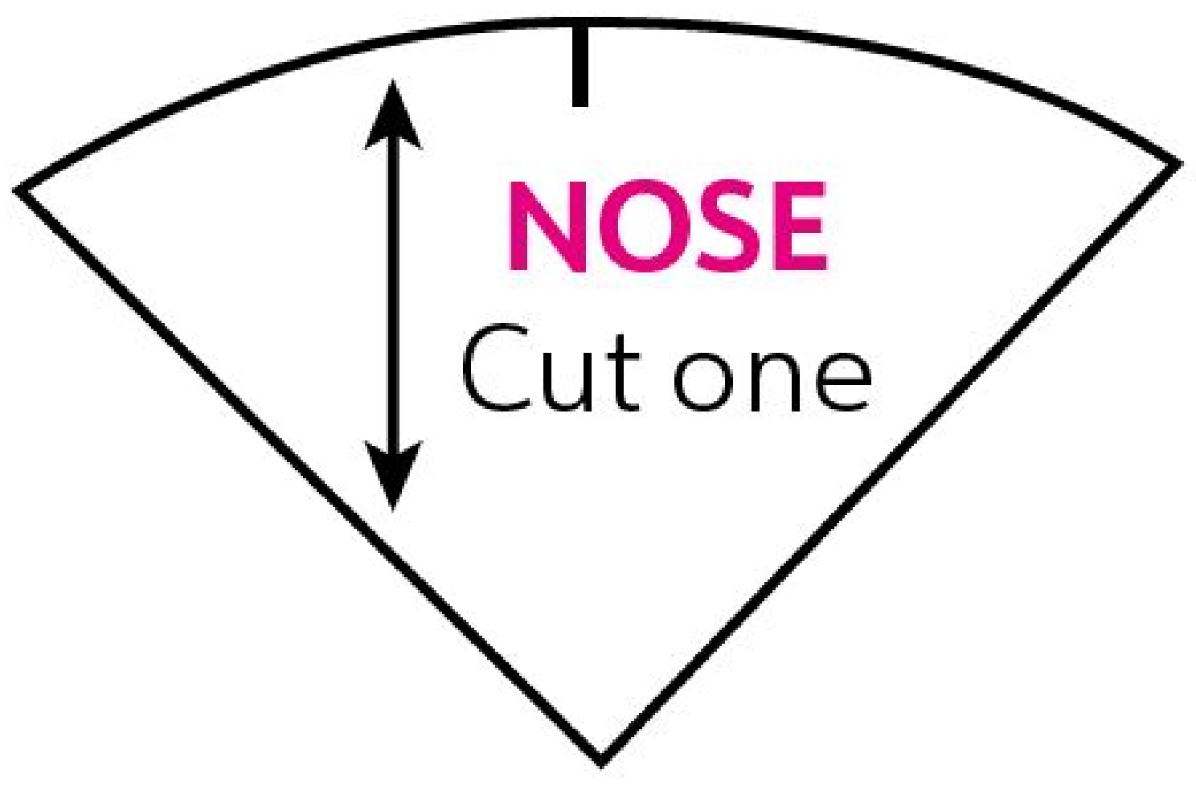
Cut this way up
for left hand
Reverse for right hand

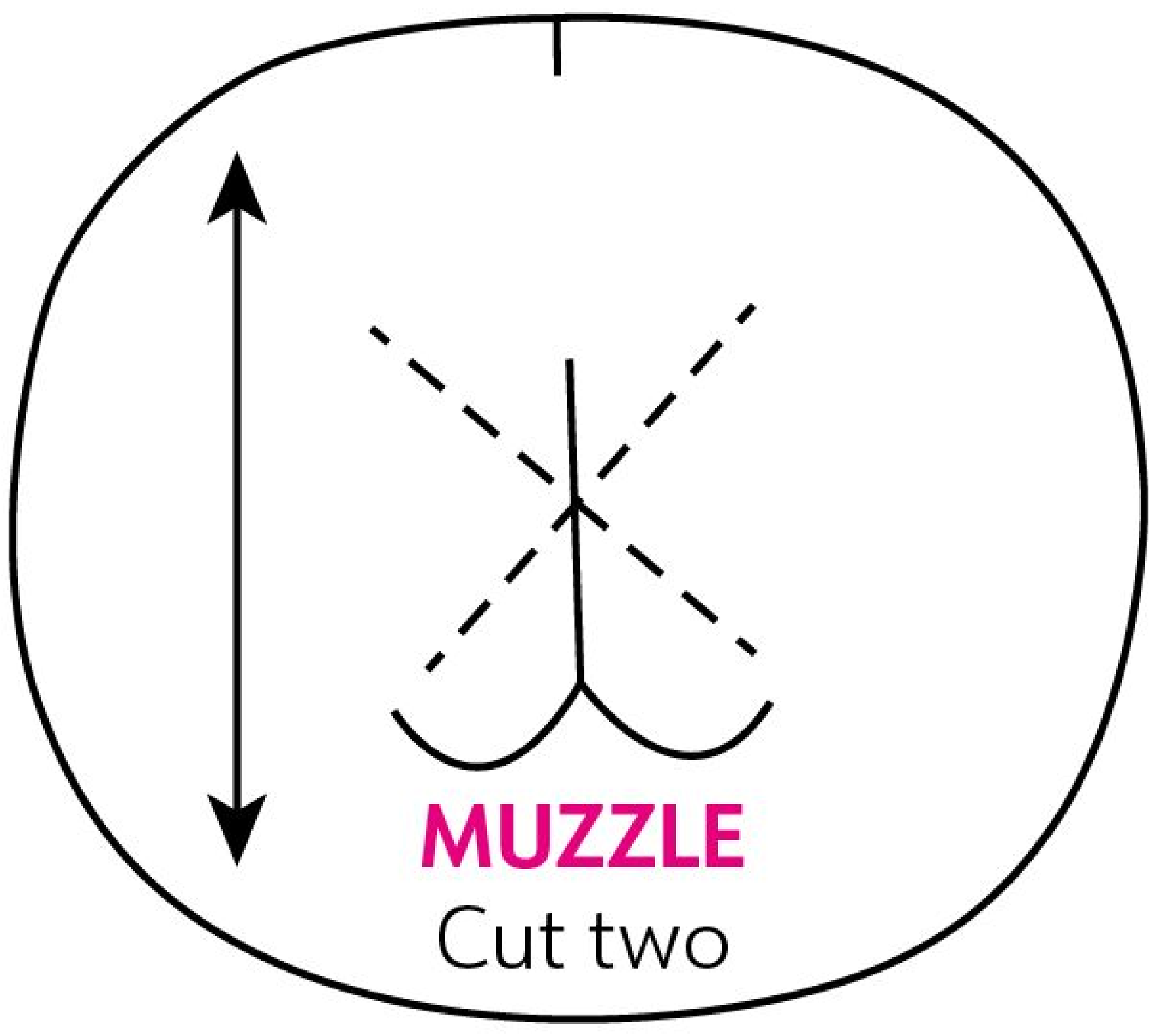
P58-59 FUNKY BEARS

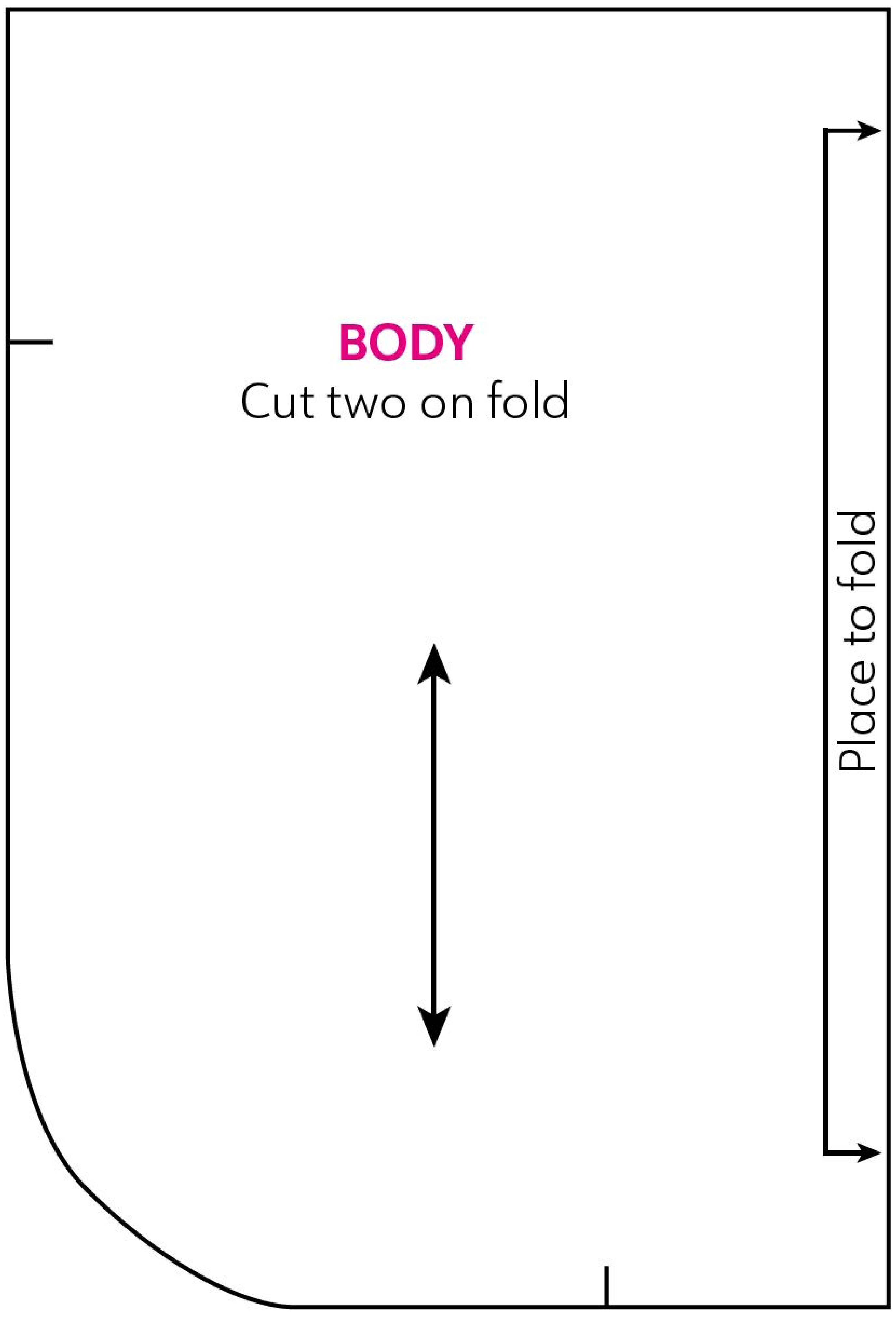

HEAD
Cut two on fold

EYE
Cut two

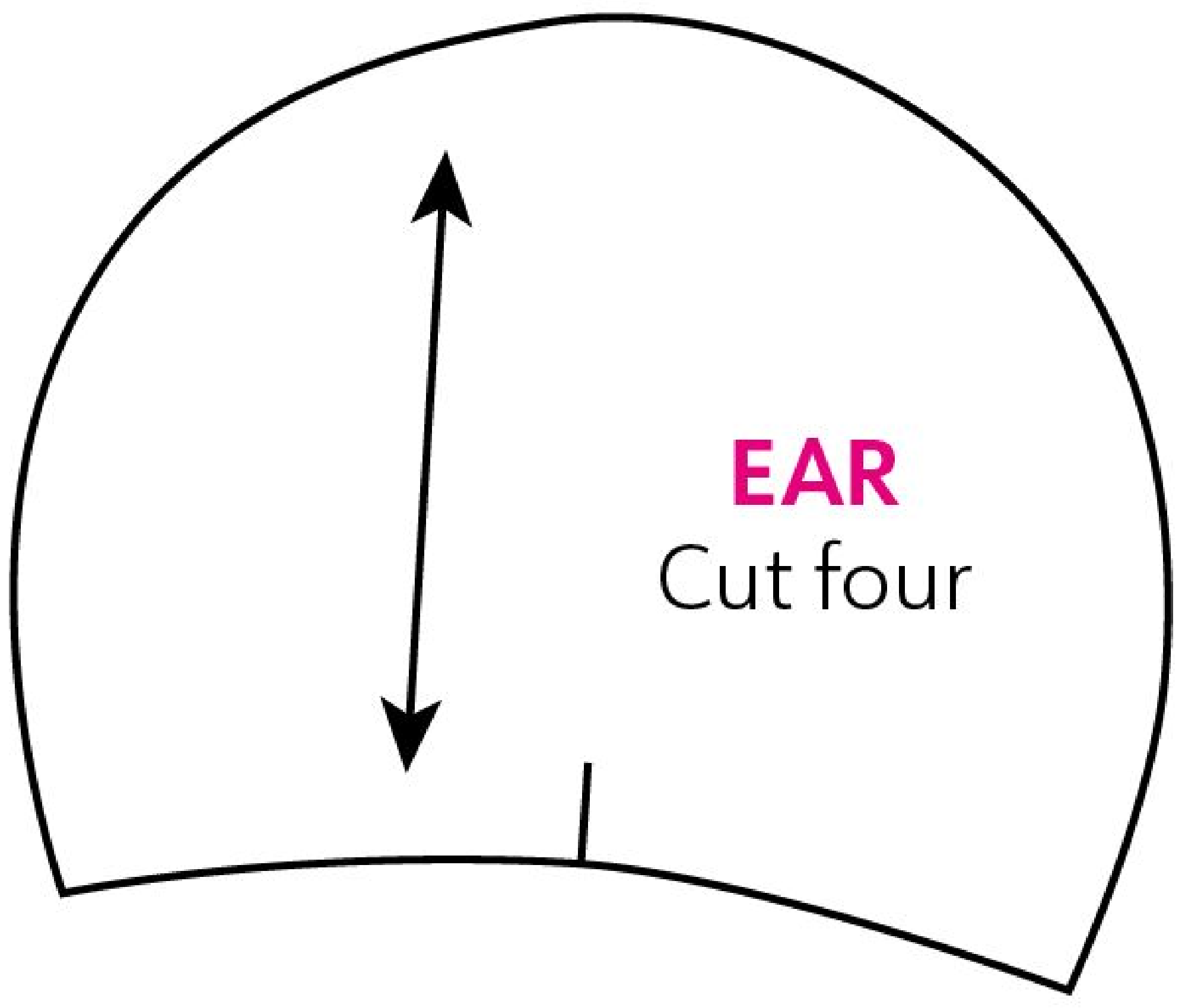
Place to fold

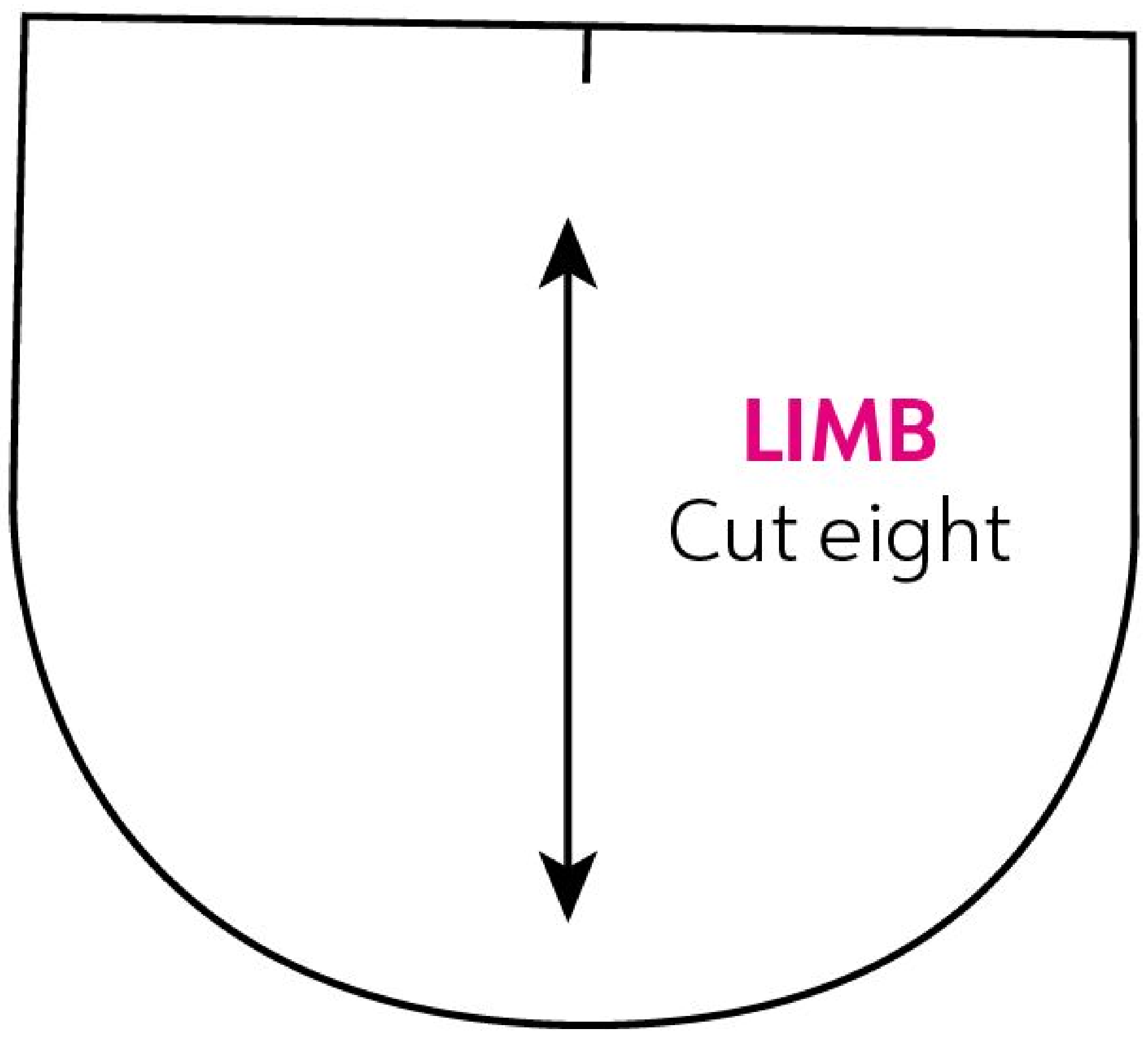

NOSE
Cut one

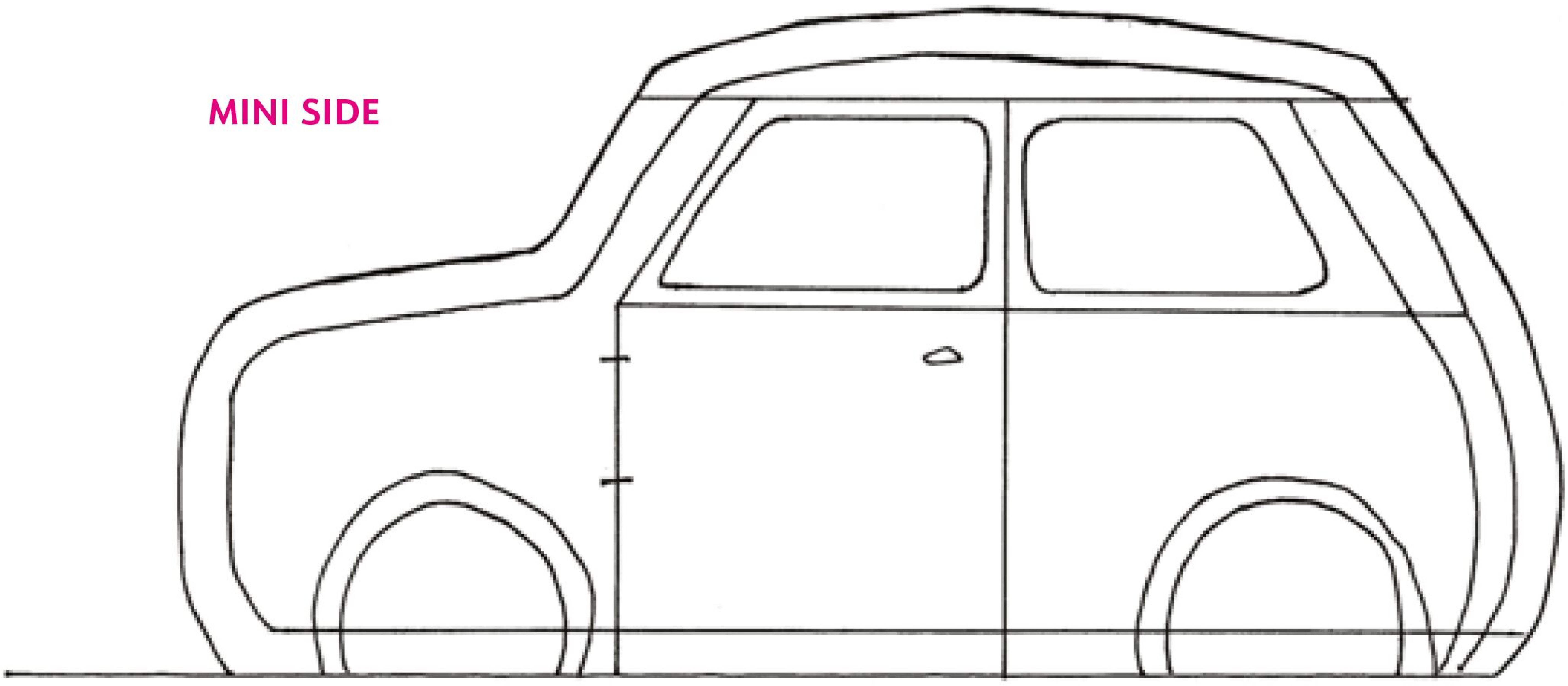

MUZZLE
Cut two

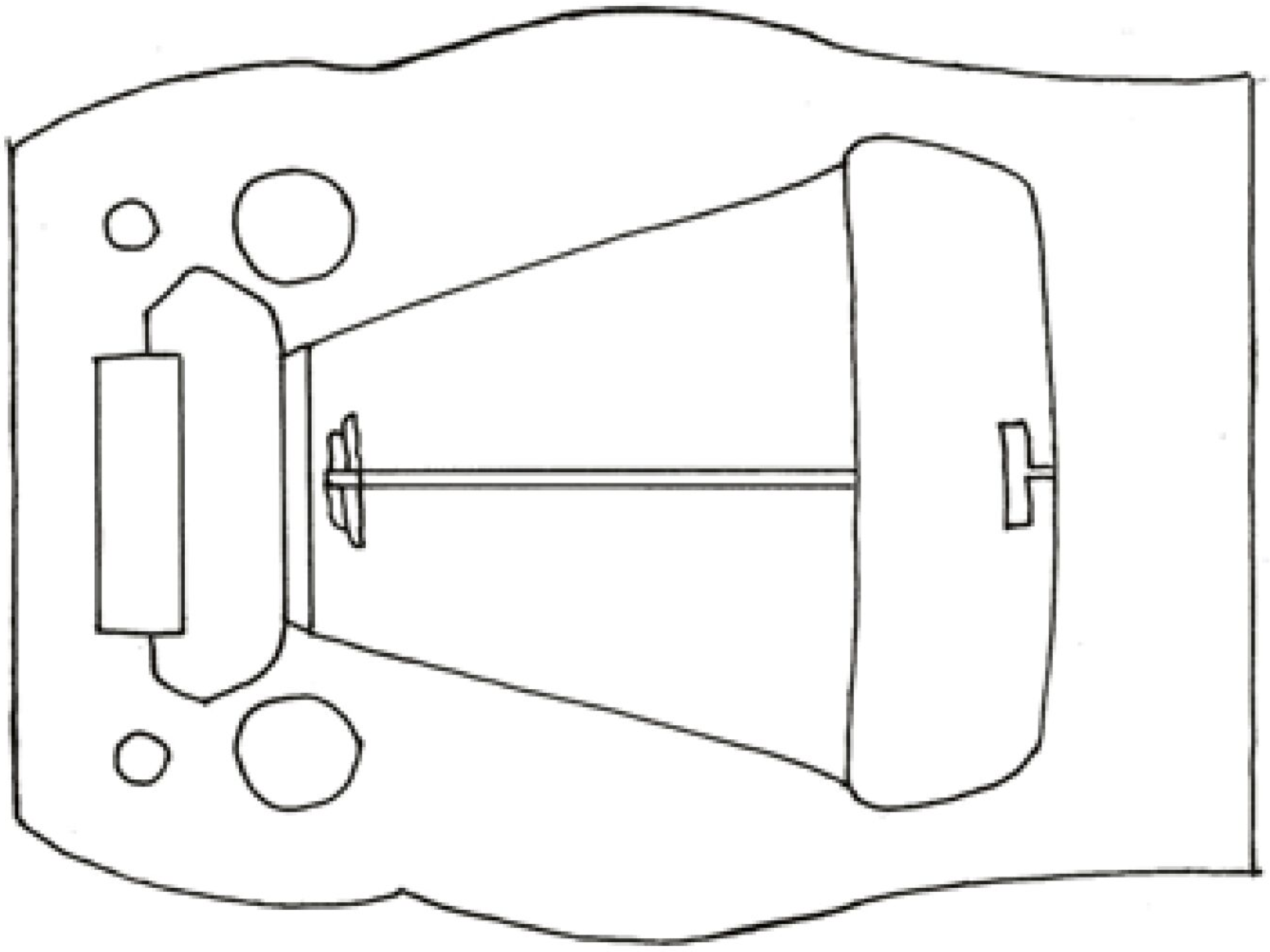

BODY
Cut two on fold

Place to fold

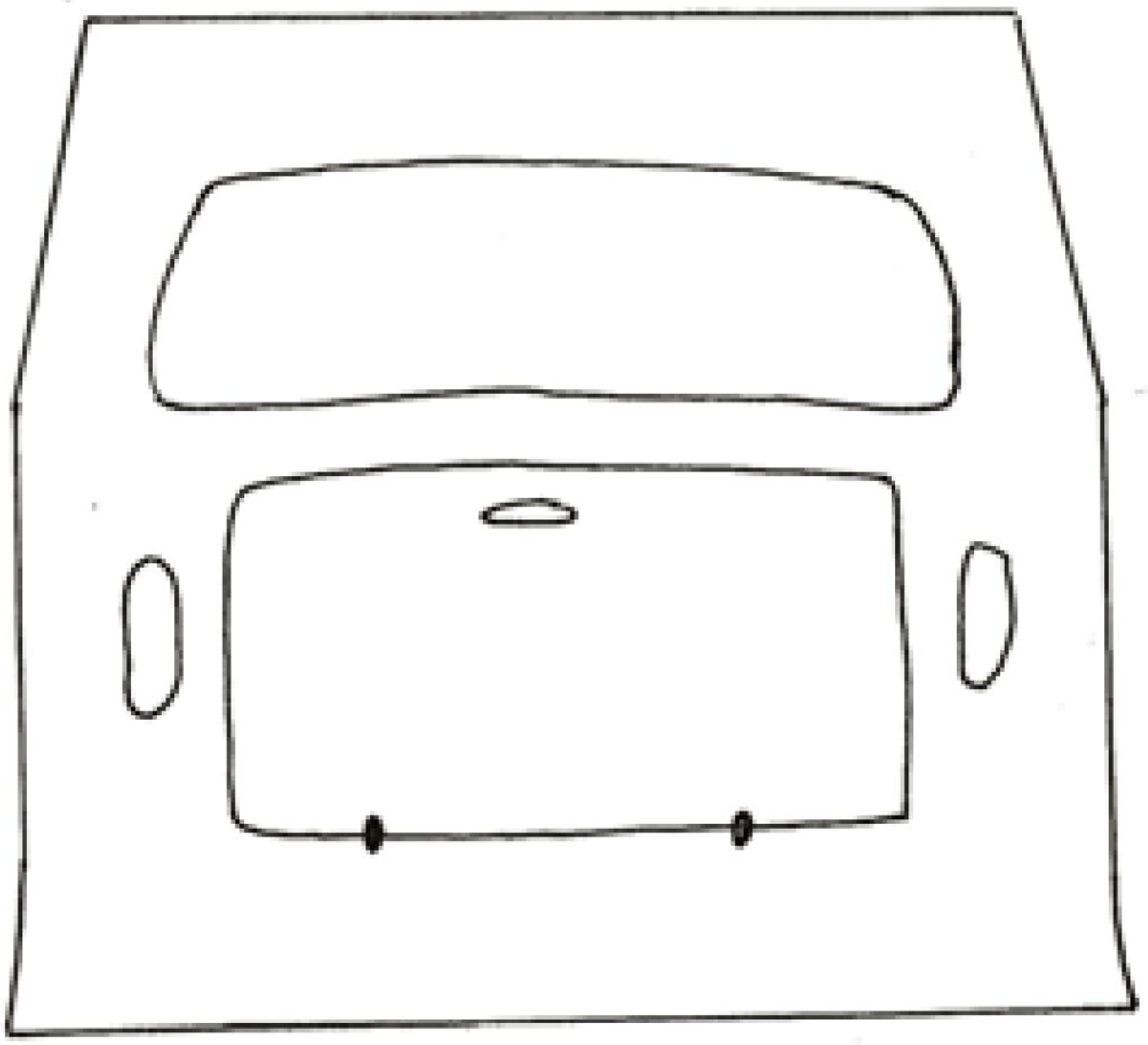

EAR
Cut four

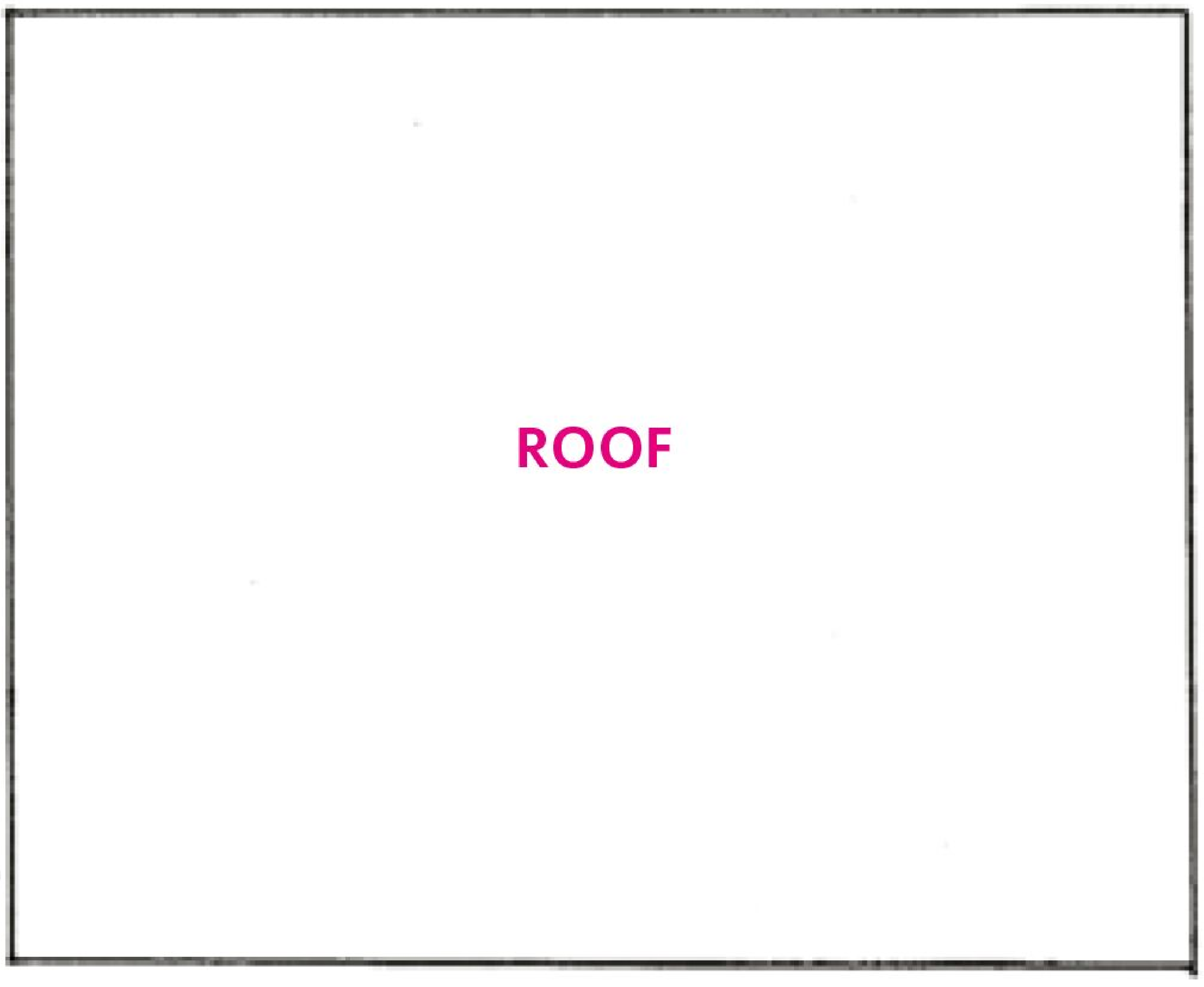

LIMB
Cut eight


MINI SIDE


FRONT

P76-77 CAR PLUSHIE


BACK


ROOF

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